GMA now under arrest

Warrant served in her suite at St. Luke's

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.
Miko Morales
and Jeannette I. Andrade

SEVENTEEN months after stepping down from the presidency, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was yesterday served an arrest warrant for alleged electoral sabotage.

The Pampanga representative, once dubbed the "Iron Lady of Asia," was in bed at a 16th-floor suite of St. Luke's Medical Center in Taguig City, wearing a hospital gown and a neck brace. The serving of the warrant capped a day of swift and unexpected developments.

Senior Supt. James Basaga of the Southern Police District (SPD) led a battery of policemen in black berets and blue uniforms in serving the warrant. He said Arroyo was calm and had anticipated their arrival, even offered them a smile, and waived her right to hear a reading of her rights by Senior Supt. Joel Cariaoli.

The warrant was served at 6:30 p.m., or two hours after it was issued by Judge Jesus Mupas of Pasay City

(PNA) A10

P-Noy wants GMA treated with 'utmost respect,' says De Lima / A11

PROTEST POSTER A militant group in wishful-thinking mode held up this poster of ex-President Arroyo behind bars during a rally outside the Supreme Court on Friday. Backing Leila de Lima, they called on the court to lift the TRO letting Arroyo leave the country.

TIMELINE

Long, historic day: Breaking news on top of breaking news

THE FOLLOWING is the sequence of events in a session-packed day dismissed by what had been largely unthinkable until yesterday: The arrest of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in her hospital bed at St. Luke's Medical Center in Taguig City:

11:00 a.m.—After an en banc meeting, the Commission on Elections (Comelec) files electoral sabotage charges against Arroyo, former Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan Sr. and former Election Supervisor Lintang Bedol in the Pasay City Regional Trial Court Branch 112 under Judge Jesus Mupas.

1 p.m.—Supreme Court spokesperson Midas Marquez announces that the high court has denied a motion for reconsideration filed by the Solicitor General seeking the lifting of the temporary restraining order issued by the court against the justice department's move placing Arroyo on a watch list. The TRO would have allowed Arroyo to leave the country for medical treatment abroad.

Marquez says the TRO remains in full force and effect. The court also orders Justice Secretary Leila de Lima to show cause within 10 days why she should not be held in contempt for not implementing the TRO.

LONG A10

High court affirms TRO: It still stands

By Marlon Ramos

THE SUPREME COURT yesterday affirmed its decision to allow former President and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to travel abroad despite strong opposition from the Aquino administration.

But later in the day, shortly after a Pasay City court ordered Arroyo's arrest, the high court's administration and spokesperson Jose Midas Marquez announced that the former President could no longer leave the country.

Marquez said, however, that the temporary restraining order (TRO) that the high court issued on Tuesday on the inclusion of Arroyo and her husband in the immigration watch list "still stands."

"But if you're going to ask whether the former President can still leave, she is now barred because of the warrant of arrest," Marquez said in a hastily called news briefing.

He added: "Technically, the order allowing Arroyo to travel and the TRO on her watch list are now moot. Since

NOLI A10

GMA lawyers: 'Moro-moro'; De Lima: Justice served

By Nina Calleja
and Christian V. Esguerra

LAWYERS of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday denounced the election sabotage charges filed by the Commission on Elections against the Pampanga congresswoman as a "moro-moro" (mockery) and that the process by which it came about was done with undue haste.

Justice Secretary Leila de Lima disagreed, calling the legal action taken against Arroyo "the real triumph for justice and accountability."

"Justice has been served," De Lima said at a press conference in Malacañang.

De Lima's remarks clashed with those of Ferdinand Topacio, the lawyer of Arroyo's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo. Topacio said it was impossible for a judge to assess and render a decision on the charges within one day.

Should that happen, the Comelec and the Department of Justice would be making a complete mockery of the judicial system, he said.

"This recommendation of the Comelec has to be presented in court which will carry out its own assessment and analysis to

GMA LAWYERS A10

BALI HIGH President Aquino meets with US President Barack Obama on the sidelines of the Asean Summit in Bali on Friday. The American president invited Mr. Aquino to the White House early next year.

P-Noy, Obama agree on Spratlys

By TJ Burgonio

BALI, Indonesia—President Aquino has found an ally in US President Barack Obama in the Philippines' initiative to resolve the row with China over the Spratly Islands in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea), with the US leader saying they would "look out for each other."

The two leaders squeezed in a 50-minute meeting before noon yesterday at the Grand Hyatt Bali hotel on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) annual summit, tackling maritime security, trade-

P-NOY A4

P-Noy skips meet with UN chief, gala dinner / A6

Lawyer Topacio's 'family jewels' saved by the bell

By Christine O. Avendaño

AT LEAST, lawyer Ferdinand Topacio's "family jewels" have been saved.

This was the reaction of presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda to the announcement by the Philippine police yesterday that they had already served an arrest warrant on former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on charges of electoral sabotage.

LAWYER A2

TV TITANS Lawyer Felipe Gozon (left), chief executive and chair of GMA Network Inc., Eugenio "Gabby" Lopez III, chair and CEO of ABS-CBN, and Manuel Pangilinan, chair of TV5, share the stage with congeniality at the Ad Congress in Camarines Sur province on Friday.

Ad Congress told TV's Big 3 not a crowd

By Juan Escandor Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

PILI, Camarines Sur—There is room for three.

This was affirmed yesterday by the top executives of the country's three rival television networks in a historic encounter at the 22nd Philippine Ad Congress, the biennial gathering of advertisers that this year chose the theme "Changing the Game."

ABS-CBN, GMA 7 and newcomer TV5 may be in a deadly race against one another for ratings, but yesterday their chief executive officers (CEOs)—Eugenio Lopez III, Felipe L. Gozon and Manuel V. Pangilinan,

AD CONGRESS A10

Ad Congress boosts local economy / A10

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

Mikey leaves for US hassle-free

ELECTORAL SABOTAGE

Abalos says raps were railroaded

By Jovenne Reing and Marlon Ramos

FORMER Comelec co-director Elias Bong Bergante Abalos III yesterday scored the filing of electoral sabotage charges against him, saying the case was "railroaded" by the Aquino administration.

Abalos immediately went to the Supreme Court yesterday morning after the Comelec included him in the electoral sabotage case filed against former President and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

In a very urgent motion for the issuance of a temporary restraining order (TRO), Abalos accused the poll body of railroading the resolution of the poll fraud case filed against him, Arroyo and 28 others.

'Undue haste'

"Coupled with the statements of [Malacañang spokesperson Edwin Lacierda] about the imminent filing of cases against herein petitioner, it is plain and manifest that there is not only a scheme to target petitioner Abalos but also that there is undue haste in the electoral sabotage charges against herein petitioner," Abalos said in a petition filed by his lawyer Brigido Dulay.

Abalos said the Department of Justice (DOJ)-Comelec preliminary investigation panel should have given him a chance to argue his case before the Supreme Court.

"It is now obvious that the proceedings before the DOJ-Comelec panel is merely a 'sham' and 'farce' and orchestrated for your determination. It is also obvious that the fate of former Chairman Abalos had been sealed even before the preliminary investigation began," Dulay said.

"It is indeed hypocritical that while the Aquino administration has been complaining about its right to be heard, it has no qualms about depriving former Chairman Abalos of his right to be heard," his lawyer added.

Imminent jeopardy

In his motion, Abalos said he was "in grave and imminent jeopardy of being indicted and incarcerated without due process and equal protection of the law even before his petition could be heard" by the justices.

This followed his unsatisfaction on Wednesday with the high court annulling the joint DOJ-Comelec committee for its "perfunctory experience and blindsided" denial of his motion for time and motion seeking to suspend proceedings.

MIKEY ARROYO, unassisted, lines up at the immigration counter like an ordinary passenger on his departure Thursday night. STORY ON P2

By Tina G. Santos

AMID the gauntlet that his mother, former President Macapagal-Arroyo was running in order to be able to leave town, Ang Galing Pinoy party-list Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo handily left for the United States on Thursday night.

The son of the former president arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 2 at 9:50 p.m. for his flight to San Francisco scheduled to depart at 10:30 p.m.

The younger Arroyo refused to answer questions thrown by reporters waiting for him at the airport and was visibly irked by photographers and TV cameramen who dogged him. At one point he asked a couple of photographers to stop, telling them, "Enough!"

Normal procedures

Arroyo went through the normal security procedures at the airport that every passenger had to endure. He left not a line-cleaning in at the business class for his Philippine Airlines flight and personally paid his terminal fee. He also removed his shoes during the final X-ray check.

Airport sources said the customs processor travelled alone.

Unlike his parents, former Pampanga Rep. Macapagal-Arroyo and her husband Jose Miguel Arroyo who were prevented Tuesday by immigration authorities at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport from leaving the country, the lawmaker-cleared immigration immediately and was able to leave with ease.

According to immigration officials at the Naia 3, Arroyo, charged with six counts of illegally but a clearance to travel abroad, particularly to Southern California, from Nov. 14 to Dec. 7. Quezon City Judge Maite Gutierrez Jacob of Regional Trial Court Branch 106 had earlier granted the bid of Arroyo to go to California on official business.

Ensure return

To ensure Arroyo's return, the court increased Arroyo's bond from P500,000 to P600,000 per count of failing to file an income tax return (ITR).

He and his wife Angela had been charged with six counts for allegedly failing to file income tax returns in several taxable years.

The congressman was charged with three counts of allegedly failing to file income tax returns from 2007 to 2009 while his wife was charged with seven counts for allegedly failing to file ITRs from 2003 to 2009.

But only the congressman flew to the United States on Thursday leaving his wife to remain in the country.

He has said he planned to meet with several groups in the United States to ask for help backed a health care program of Ang Galing Pinoy.

Farmers press plunder charges vs Danding, JPE

A FARMERS' group yesterday asked the Office of the Ombudsman to act on an eight-year-old plunder complaint that they had filed against businessman Danding Cojuangco, Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile and the late Clara Lobregat over the alleged misuse of coconut levy funds.

The Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) yesterday filed an "extremely urgent motion" asking the Ombudsman to direct the respondents to file a counter-affidavit in the criminal complaint.

In their motion, the KMP said their complaint has been pending for far too long, considering that they brought it to the Ombudsman in 2003.

"For almost eight years now, still no action has been taken. It is the height of injustice that the complainants, representing the small coconut farmers, were continuously being deprived of the fruits of their labor and rightful ownership of the multi-billion coconut levy funds," they said.

The coco levy was a forced tax collected from farmers during martial law when the country was ruled by dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

The levy on the coconut industry was actually two levies: the first called the Coconut Investment Fund, or Cocofund, was imposed by Congress which enacted the Cocofund Law, or RA 6260, in 1971.

The second was the Coconut Investment Stabilization Fund (CISF) under Presidential Decree 276, imposing a P15 levy for every 100 kg of copra "for the benefit of coconut farmers."

The funds from the levy, which was collected "on first sale," was remitted to the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), an agency created by presidential decree in 1973, which was tasked to develop the coconut industry.

The PCA governing board was chaired by Enrile, the then defense minister. Among the board members were Cojuangco and Lobregat, the president of Cocofed, an organization of coconut landowners and landlords which was then the only recognized farmers' organization. Lobregat died in 2004.

In the 2003 complaint, the KMP alleged that the coco levy funds were illegally used to misdirect the funds used for the purchase of 71.2 percent of the authorized capital stock of the First United Bank, the precursor of the United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB).

It said 7.2 percent of the authorized capital was owned by Cojuangco. It said the 64.86 percent of the authorized capital stock that was placed in the PCA was distributed illegally to 1.4 million farmers who paid the Cocofund levy. But the money was supposed to be for the patron of the CCSF, who numbered 9.3 million, it said.

It alleged that the 1.4 million farmers were members of the Lobregat-led Cocofed, were not genuine coconut farmers and were just dummies and business associates of the respondents. Leila B. Salaverria

New UCPB chief 'bad news' for coco farmers

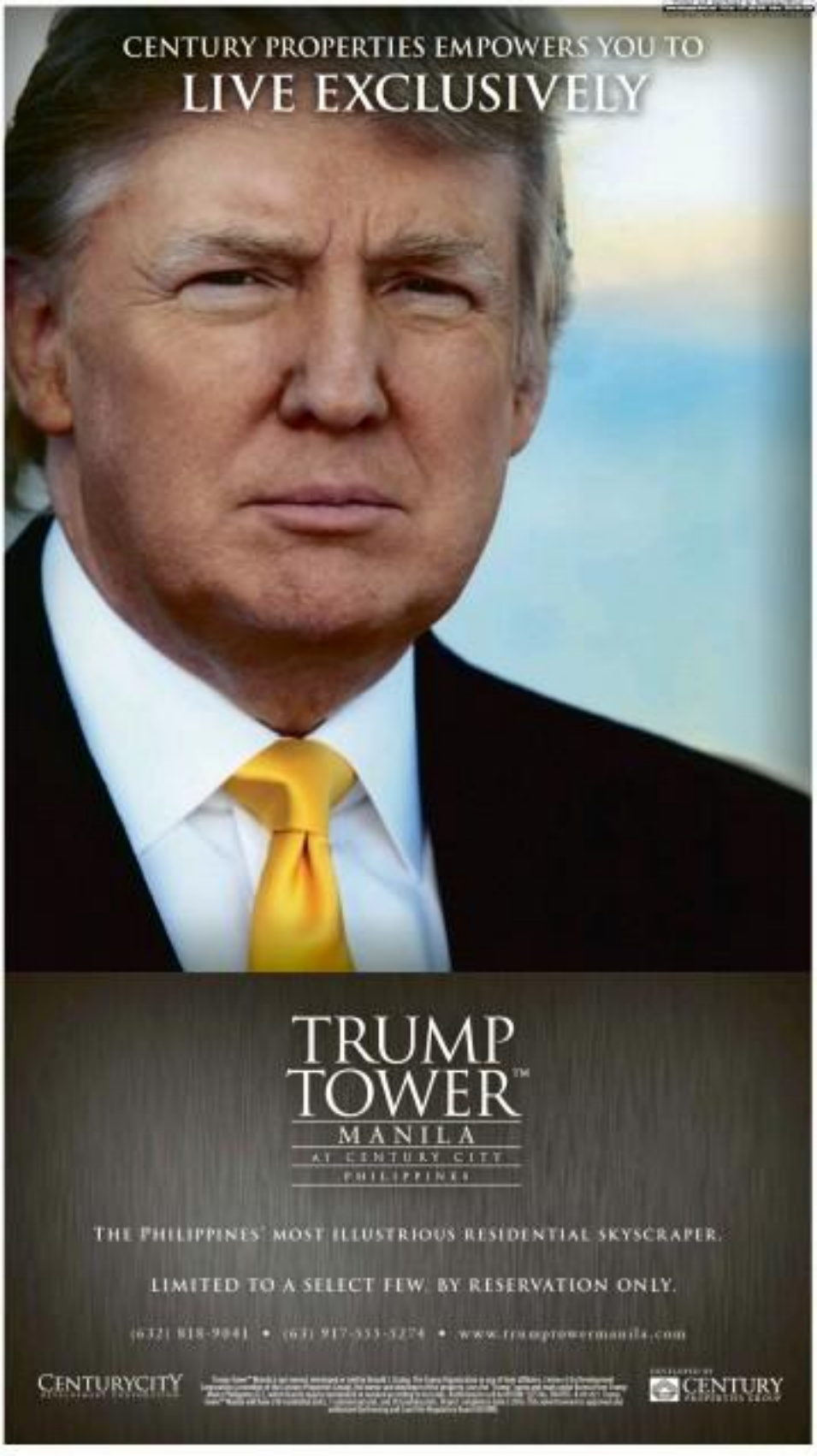
By Joey Galvoto
Inquirer Visayas

DUMAGUETE CITY—A cocomic farmer's group in Eastern Visayas has described as bad news the appointment of banker Antonino Aliñado as new president and chief executive officer of the United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB).

Aliñado Ada, director of the Kaagapay sang mga Mag-uuma Sulod ha Isyuno (Kapatid), said Wednesday that Aliñado's appointment might only jeopardize their claims to the coconut levy fund especially that the 64-year-old banker was closely associated with business tycoon Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr.

Kapisan has more than 300 coconut farmer-members in Samar.

"His appointment (is not) a victory to the farmers. The claims of the coconut farmers for the return of the coco levy funds is doomed further not be realized. The farmers have been nothing (to)," he said, referring to the partial recovery of the coco levy funds among coconut farmers.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Gov't to pour billions of pesos into ARMM development

By DJ Yap

THE GOVERNMENT will be pouring billions of pesos in development funds into the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), according to Interior Secretary Jesse M. Robredo.

Robredo, who addressed a conference in Davao City yesterday, said the government is ready to implement a P6.5 billion "roadmap and investment plan" for the five ARMM provinces, pending the results of a motion appealing the Supreme Court ruling that upheld the legality of a law allowing President Aquino to appoint caretaker officials to govern the region before the 2013 elections.

Robredo said the P6.5 billion "development acceleration fund" was on top of the P11.6 billion budget of the ARMM for 2011 and would be implemented by at least 10 national government agencies under a task force team to be headed by the DILG.

He said the transition team intended to speed up the Aquino government's "mission and vision" for ARMM.

"The main reason why we are here today is to let the public know of the Aquino government's sincerity in its promise of allocating multibillion-peso funds for ARMM for its social economic development, governance reforms and for improving [peace and security in the region," Robredo said.

"We have already prepared the roadmap and in coordinated plan for the ARMM. This means the plan and the funds are ready for the new ARMM projects even before the Supreme Court has ruled with finality on the constitutionality of Republic Act 10153," he said.

According to Robredo, the Department of Budget and Management has initially approved P5.8 billion out of the P6.5 billion disbursement allocation fund, which is currently in the pipeline, ready for use by the transition team for various development projects in the ARMM.

Congress had approved a law resetting the ARMM polls originally scheduled in August to May 2012 coinciding with the mid-term polls.

Various groups have filed a motion for reconsideration against the Oct. 18 high court decision that upheld the constitutionality of Republic Act 10153 postponing the ARMM elections and authorizing the President to appoint officers-in-charge (OICs) for the region.

As an autonomous unit, the region composed of Basilan, Tawi-Tawi, Sulu, Maguindanao and Lanao Del Sur provinces has its own Cabinet, as well as a governor and vice governor.

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ASIA-PACIFIC PRIZE

Pinoy bags grand prize in art contest

By Liru B. Estonina

SINGAPORE—Filipino artist Rodel Tapaya won on Thursday night the grand prize in the Asia Pacific Breweries Foundation Signature Art Prize, an international art contest of Asia Pacific artists, for a mural that weaves together ancient myths and folklore with current realities, such as environmental degradation and flooding.

Tapaya's work, "Banwa ni Kabunian, Sibang Nivu di Mabilang (Cause of Kabunian, Numbered but Cannot be Numbered)," painted 14 other mainly large-scale art works from 14 countries across the Asia-Pacific. The shortlist of finalists was selected from among 150 works nominated from 24 countries by art experts.

Tapaya, 31, received 45,000 Singapore dollars. "I think God, the greatest artist of all, blessed me this anniversary month. He is so thankful Kumar K.S. Lenna, director of the Ateneo Art Gallery, for nominating his work, and dedicated his victory to his wife, Martina Cruz, also a top young artist.

PH art lovers

A motley group of Philippine art lovers, including Lorna, Philippine Embassy Cultural Section Head Imperial, gallery owner Lory Javier, art collector Alice Tan, and Singapore Time Out magazine online editor James Peter Ong, as well as several young Filipino professionals working here locally cheered when Tapaya's name was called during the awarding ceremonies at the Singapore Art Museum (SAM).

Three artists received the Juror' Prize: Aida Makoto of Japan for his acrylic-on-canvas mural, "Ink Painting (Diptych)"; Daniel Crooks of Australia for his video, "Static No. 12 [Sleek Stillness in Movement]"; and Chitra Chhatrabi of India for her mixed media installation, "The Blame Project." They received SGD15,000 each.

Singaporean artist Michael Lee won the People's Choice award for his digital print suite, "Second Portal City" the also received SGD5,000.

Compelling

In a boxed statement, the international jury called Tapaya's work, a 300 x 600-cm acrylic on canvas, "a compelling visual narrative on large scale mark."

"With its multiple narratives and ethereal color schemes, the mural effectively reconciles traditional motifs in contemporary art from the Asia-Pacific region," the jury said. "While Tapaya does not shy away from interrogating the folklore of his native region, his is neither a naïve nor self-orientalizing practice. The artist is meticulous in his use of the Philippine visual tradition as well as Latin American magic realism and South-like phantasmagoria.

"Anchored in a postcolonial setting but with far reaching universal relevance, the work will surely provoke discussion about emerging aesthetic tendencies in Asia-Pacific. Together with the three Jurors' Choice awardees, Tapaya's contemporaries are poised trending in their negotiation of cultural heritage and contemporary forms of expression. They are all worthy of recognition as being among the best art works from the region."

Tapaya's winning work was part of his 2010 solo exhibit and was bought by Yuchu Dalsen Collection and Art Vantage Ltd., both entities based art buyers, although they only saw the work's electronic images. Even before the art work could be shipped to the buyers, the mural, along with several others by Filipino artists, was nominated to the Singapore prize by Lorna. "Kabunian!" exude it to the client list and the rest was history.

Narrative painting

For the finals exhibit and judging, the work was dropped by cargo forwarder from Manila to SAM by Lorna and Javier on Thursday night, the brush bearer were invited to the awarding ceremonies when they finally saw for the first time the actual work and met the artist, who was the youngest looking among the finalists.

In an interview with the inquirer, Tapaya explained that he employed Kinaray-a and Bisaya myths as well as Tagalog folklore to paint an allegory. He said he had always considered "narrative painting" as his strongest suit and had always sought to tell moral tales when he paints.

The central image of his new work is the Bisaya myth of a good woman that saved humans from a great flood. On the back of the dog is an Ifugao mythological character, the son of the god Kabunian, who used a piece of cloth to turn mountains and living like and materials to humans. From Tagalog folklore Tapaya is from Mercadian, Incidentally, he adapted the fable of a princess who turned into a frog.

Careful regard for nature and the sacred, most of nature are apparent allegorical themes in the work. A detail of the work shows a mountain denuded of trees and washing away the houses on its steep sides and another detail shows a woman's head resting a new which has the face of a man instead of a crown of leaves. The message is clear: by his greed, man brings himself disaster.

Other finalist

Other finalists were Bui Cong Khanh (Vietnam), Chang Yoong Chia (Malaysia), Chen Chieh-jen (Taiwan), Ay-Tee Christine Dodoo (Ghana), Kyungah Ham and Kim Jongku (South Korea), Sinta Tantra and Entang Wiharso (Indonesia), Vandy Rattana (Cambodia), Greg Semu (New Zealand), and Tang Kingsong (China).

The international jury consisted of Sabapet, cultural theorist and curator Hoshino Ozuyo Mak, executive director of the Institute of Contemporary arts in London, Poitou Stings, director of the Mori Museum of Tokyo, Indonesian writer, critic and curator Jim Supangkat, and Tan Siew Hui, director of the Singapore Art Museum (SAM).

Organized by SAM and sponsored by the Asia Pacific Breweries (APB) Foundation of Tiger Beer, the Signature Art Prize is a triennial art contest that started in 2008. For its second edition this year, it was expanded from the original 12 participating countries to include new countries, such as Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and the Philippines.

Tapaya's winning work is now on exhibit along with the finalists' art until March 4, 2012 at the Singapore Art Museum (www.singaporeartmuseum.sg/signature/exhibition).

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Junk massacre raps, 2 cops ask

By Jaime H. Ascalon

TWO POLICEMEN indicted for the Maguindanao massacre have asked a Quezon City court to dismiss their cases for 56 counts of murder because their arrest was "illegal."

Supt. Rolando Kumsong and SPO1 Sandy Subuang submitted a motion to quash to Judge Jocelyn Solis-Reyes of Regional Trial Court Branch 221.

The lawmen, through their lawyer Jarnac Bonifacio, argued that the charges against them should be dropped and the arrest warrants declared null because the court did not acquire jurisdiction over them.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

NOVEMBER 19 (Saturday)
Psalter Week 1
33rd Week in Ordinary Time
Ps 97:2-9, 4 and 8, 10 and 14
I will rejoice in your salvation, O Lord.
1 Maccabees 1:10

While King Antiochus was still in Persia, it was reported to him that the armies sent to Judea had been defeated. This filled him first with great anger. He let his wounded countenance be this terrible anguish for many days. He felt that he was dying, so he called his friends and said to them, "Sleep has fled from my eyes and I am greatly troubled by my anxieties. Now I remember the evils I did in Jerusalem, the vessels of gold and silver that I stole, the inhabitants of Judea I ordered to be killed for no reason at all. I now know that because of this these misfortunes have come upon me, and I am dying of grief in a strange land."

Ch 20:27-40
Gospel:

Some Sadducees answered: These people deny that there is no resurrection and they asked Jesus this question, "Master, in the Scriptures Moses told us: If anyone dies leaving a wife but no children, his brother must take the wife and the child is to become full heir according to the child of the deceased man. Now, there were seven brothers; the first married a wife, but he died without children; and the second and the third took the wife; in fact all seven included leaving no children. Last of all the woman died. On the day of the resurrection, to which of them will the woman be wife? The other seven had her as wife."

And Jesus replied, "Taking husband or wife is proper to people of this world, but for those who are considered worthy of that world to come and of resurrection from the dead, there is no more marriage. Besides, they cannot die then for they are like the angels. They too are sons and daughters of God because they are heirs of the resurrection.

Yes, the dead will be raised, and even Moses implied it in the passage about the burning bush, where he calls the Lord the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. For he is God of the living and not of the dead, and for him all are alive."

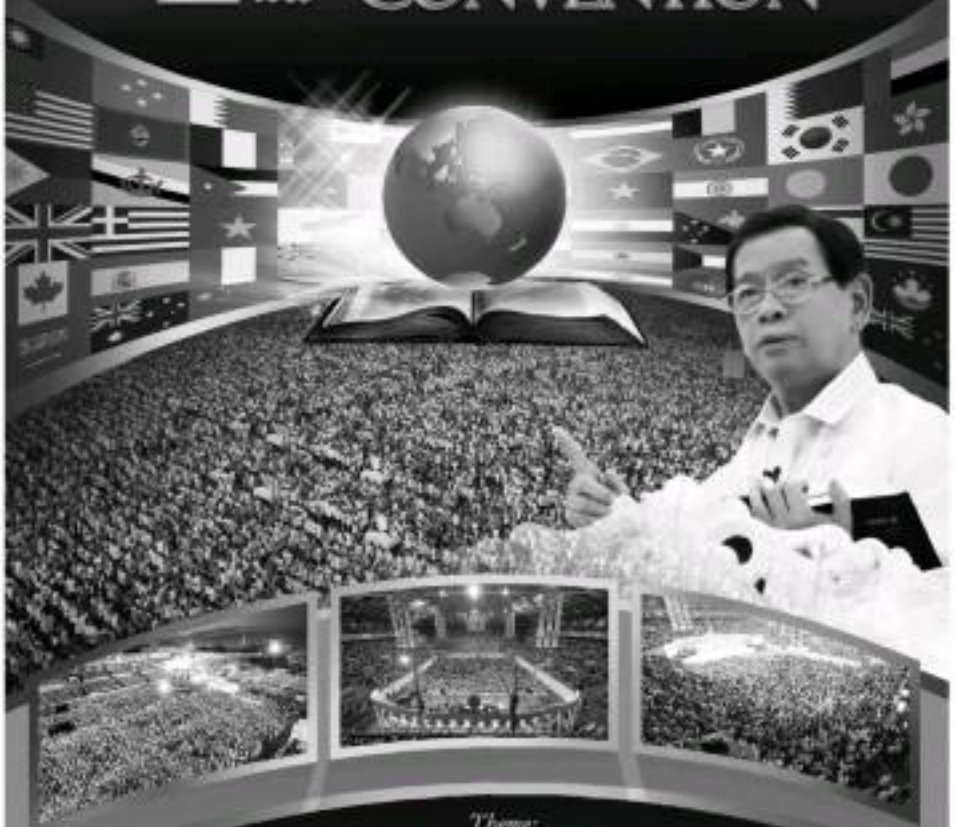
Reflection:

Why are there so many gloomy faces inside the Church? Good Christians, especially those in the church calendar are those people are still putting on their Good Friday face. We are children of Risen teachers. We are Easter people because our God is not called to the living God. He walks with us, thus many people are going to church with heavy hearts and gloomy spirit because like the Sadducees, they are preoccupied with concerns like who will be the real husband of a woman who married seven times. They are still concerned with worldly things. They missed the point that Resurrection is not about duplicate but about Jesus who emerged victorious against death and evil.

The Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.
This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Psalms 118:23-24

Pentecostal Missionary CHURCH OF CHRIST (4th WATCH)

22nd INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION



Theme:

"Fellowship with the Apostle in Evangelism"

Philippians 1:5

Hundreds of thousands delegates of the Pentecostal Missionary CHURCH OF CHRIST (4th Watch) will gather at the Quirino Grandstand at the Luneta at 4:00pm on November 20, 2011 for the culmination of the Church 22nd International Convention. This event will be highlighted by the message of the Apostle Arsenio T. Ferriol. There will be prayer for the sick and the needy.

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P-Noy gives go-signal for ₱1.1-B Naia rehab

By Christine G. Avendaño

PRESIDENT Aquino has given the go-signal for the P1.1 billion rehabilitation plan for the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) terminal 1, deemed one of the worst and most hated airports in the world, according to Transportation and Communications Secretary Mar Roxas.

In a Palace news conference on Tuesday, Roxas said that the rehabilitation will see structural and aesthetic works to be done in the 9,000-hectare and 20-year-old airport terminal starting January next year and lasting 18 months.

He said they will retain the service of the original architects of the airport—Leandro Locsin—Associates since they have the original blueprint and design for the terminal.

'Expert' assistance

The government will also get the service of a team of the world's best airport—Changi Airport in Singapore to help in the rehabilitation. These experts will come to the country to look into the rehabilitation plan at the end of this month and submit their findings in January next year.

"The structural configuration of terminal 1 is already built as we cannot endanger it, we cannot move things around... So what we are doing is making the best of what we have," Roxas told reporters.

The rehabilitation of the airport was canceled as it had been built in 1981 and it was originally designed to accommodate 4.5 million passengers a year and that it reached this capacity in 1991, according to Roxas.

And while improvements were made in 1996 in time for the country's holding of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Manila, he said that since then or for the last 20 years, the airport had "processed" 50 million more passengers.

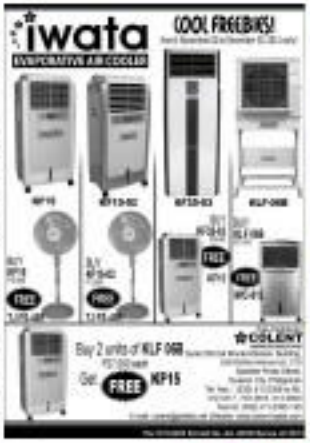
Aesthetic facelift

Roxas said the thrust of the rehabilitation will go to aesthetics and interior design so the airport's assessment, or P600 million for smooth structural upgrades, the government will spend P340 million.

The government will also shell out P300 million for rapid rail stations in "reduce waiting time" of captives.

They will also spend P265 million for improvements in 72 toilets in the airport as well as another P20 million for arrivals and another amenities. Roxas also said banks and duty-free shops would be relocated.

"We assure the public we're doing all we can to provide them safe, reliable and comfortable facilities," Roxas said.



DepEd to build new kindergarten schools

By Tara Quintanilla

SOME KINDERGARTENS will be constructed throughout the country as the Department of Education (DepEd) expands its public preschool program.

In an order, Education Secretary Armin Luistro said the kindergarten school building program is part of the government's efforts to mainstream the Early Childhood Education Program, which this year has been enhanced to include as many 5-year-old students as possible.

The expansion has been criticized by teachers' groups as it was introduced despite the continuing shortage of school facilities and teaching staff.

Some 1.6 million 5-year-olds signed up for the universal public kindergarten program this year.

Kindergarten classes are currently being held in designated classrooms where available, and grade school classrooms have to double as preschool rooms in some schools. The situation presents problems in already-crowded campuses.

According to DepEd Order No. 91, dated Nov. 11 and released yesterday, single-story kindergarten school buildings will be built in priority areas to be identified by the Bureau of Elementary Education, which also oversees the implementation of the public preschool program.

Space for learning

The DepEd said target schools "should have sufficient school site for the construction of a single-story kindergarten building," designed to be situated 7 meters by 8 meter room.

Each classroom should be able to accommodate between 25 to 30 students, the DepEd said.

"This will allow kindergarten children to have enough space for physical and interactive learning activities," the order said.

The DepEd will also be providing school furniture, including tables and chairs, indoor matting and ventilation needs.

P-Noy skips meet with UN chief, gala dinner

By TJ Burgonio

BALI, Indonesia—Apparently disturbed by a looming crisis in Manila, President Aquino skipped Friday afternoon's bilateral meeting with United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, and last night's gala dinner hosted by Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

Asia-Pacific leaders, including US President Barack Obama, showed up in their Balinese attire for the gala dinner hosted by President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono at around 8 p.m. at the Bali Nusa Dua Convention Center, until Mr. Aquino wasn't one among them.

Phone cut off

"No," Commissioner Secretary Ricky Carandang said when asked by phone if the President was attending the dinner. The call, however, was cut off.

"He had a pressing issue that he had to entrust himself on," Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario, who represented Mr. Aquino in the meeting with Ban Ki-moon, said in an earlier interview.

The 3:30 p.m. bilateral meeting, which was requested by the UN chief, took place at around the same time news broke that an unwelcome had been issued against former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in Manila.

Del Rosario thanked the UN chief over the body's various programs for different sectors in the Philippines, while Ban Ki-moon lauded the Philippines for its ratification of the Rome Statute, among others.

US, China rivalry spills into Asean meetings

NUSA DUA, Indonesia—Tensions between the United States and China spilled over into meetings of Asia-Pacific leaders on Friday as the two countries jostled over how to handle competing claims in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea).

The Chinese government has vocally declared the maritime dispute off limits at Saturday's talks, to be attended by US President Barack Obama, China's Premier Wen Jiabao, and 16 other nations, including several with claims over the waterway.

But Obama said the gathering "can be the premier arena for us to be able to work together on a wide range of issues...maritime security or nonproliferation."

Obama has irritated China with a drive to enhance the US role as a regional power, positioning Marines in northern Australia and pushing for a potentially transformational trans-Pacific trade pact.

Beijing sees the initiatives as intruding into its own sphere of influence, with the dispute over the West Philippine Sea pointing the two major world powers' differences into stark focus.

'External forces' warned

On Friday Wen again warned against interference by "external forces" in the struggle. He declared that outside forces had no excuse to get involved in the maritime dispute, a veiled warning to the US and other countries to keep out of the sensitive issue.

"It ought to be resolved through friendly consultations and discussions by countries directly involved. Outside forces should not, under any pretext, get involved," Wen told a meeting with Southeast Asian leaders.

The remark is the latest lashback between the two countries in recent weeks when Obama sought to reassure US presence in the Asia-Pacific region to counter the growing influence of China, its biggest economic rival.

Obama said in Australia on Thursday that the US military would expand its Asia-Pacific role despite budget cuts, declaring America was "here to stay" as a Pacific power. AFP, Reuters, AP

P-Noy, Obama agree on Spratlys, set Washington date

From page A1

or nonproliferation, disaster and humanitarian relief.

Obama also invited Mr. Aquino to visit Washington early next year.

They later exhorted the Asean-US Leaders' Summit at the Bali Nusa Dua Convention Center, venue of the Asean summit.

Facing Mr. Aquino at the hotel's grand ballroom, Obama said the ties between the two countries went back decades and would grow even stronger in the coming years.

Incredible personal relations

"We have a 60-year alliance that ensures that we are looking out for each other when it comes to security. But more than just security, we have incredible person-to-person relations between our two countries," Obama told Mr. Aquino before US and Philippine officials, including Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario.

The meeting, Obama said, was an "opportunity for us to discuss how we can further deepen that relationship" and tackle maritime security, among other topics, in today's East Asia Summit. He also lauded Mr. Aquino for his leadership and reforms in government.

"I think that a relationship that's already very strong can only become stronger as a consequence of our continued interaction," Obama said.

Mr. Aquino said he looked forward to boosting the two countries' ties in these troubled times.

"It's true we have one of the longest-running relationships, a strong base of shared values and history. And we look forward, in these turbulent times, to really further strengthen our relationship," he said.

Assistant Foreign Secretary Marvin Paez said that during the two leaders' meeting, Obama "expressed appreciation for the Philippines' emphasis on a peaceful settlement and a rules-based approach to resolving the competing claims in the West Philippine Sea, specifically the need to segregate the disputed features and the disputed waters of the South China Sea because not all of the entire South China Sea should be disputed."

Free use of the seas

The Philippines and the US, as well as China, are taking part in today's East Asia Summit of 18 Asia-Pacific nations, where maritime security is expected to be high on the agenda.

The Philippines is pushing to turn the disputed sea into a zone of peace, freedom, friendship and cooperation, which entails segregating disputed zones to allow free use and joint development of undisputed areas. This was "scored" by other Asean countries.

Despite the cool response, Philippine officials saw a glimmer of hope, after some of its neighbors mentioned the need to move forward with a Declaration of the Conduct of Parties on the South China Sea and draw up a "binding set of rules" on the West Philippine Sea.

China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan have overlapping claims over the Spratlys, believed to be atop vast oil and gas reserves and straddling commercial lanes.

They said that while Obama made no commitment on the Manila proposal, Clinton clearly spelled out the US position during her Manila visit early this week.

Stabilizing force

"She made clear the US position. The basic US position is for a multilateral and a peaceful resolution of the dispute. President Obama also noted the importance of the China-Asean Declaration of Conduct on the South China Sea as a framework for tackling this matter," she said.

Obama also told Mr. Aquino the United States would enhance its military presence in the region by deploying more than 2,000 Marines in Australia, Pres said.

"They also discussed the important role of maritime security which is one of the three major items on the table of the East Asia Summit," the told reporters.

Obama's announcement of the deployment drew protests from China but was welcomed by Philippine officials, who viewed it as a "stabilizing force" against China's rising power.

At the Asean-China Commemorative Summit on Friday morning, the Philippines, as well as Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia and Malaysia, reaffirmed the need to move forward on the 2002 Asean-China declaration of conduct, Communications Secretary Ricky Carandang said.

Carandang said even China agreed to discuss the code of conduct.

"Everyone said we should move forward on a code of conduct so that we can eventually find a binding code of conduct," he said. "That [is] a positive development."

Lawyer Topacio's 'family jewels' saved by the bell

From page A1

Topacio, a lawyer of former First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, said on television the other day that he would have one of his "balls" cut off if the Arroyos did not return from their planned foreign trip, unless they do President planned to seek medical treatment.

Yesterday's arrest order apparently dashed any hope by Arroyo of leaving the country anytime soon.

De Lima amused

At a press conference in Malacañang, Lacierda read a statement saying, "The decision of the Pasay City regional trial court allowed Pemberton/Topacio to raise his family jewels."

Lacierda immediately left, leaving reporters and even awkward Justice Secretary Leila de Lima, who was also at the press conference, laughing.

The Palace was clearly relieved by the turn of events that ended with Arroyo being served a warrant of arrest by a police officer while she was lying in bed at St. Luke's Medical Center in Taguig City.

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'ONE DAY ONE BAY'

Manila Bay cleanup in the works

By DJ Yap

ONE DAY, the waters of the Manila Bay may again be worthy-for-kissed-water.

Or at least that's the ambition behind the "One Day One Bay" campaign of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) that will launch it on Nov. 20 in a mass clean-up drive around Metro Manila.

From 6 a.m. to 12 noon on that Saturday, some 13,000 students, employees and volunteers will roll up their sleeves and wade into the dirty waters of the Manila Bay, an estimated area of 4,000 sq. km. that drains into it, to jump start the clean-up drive, officials said on Friday.

Ripples

The target of the campaign, according to Interior Secretary Jesse M. Robredo, is to reduce pollution in the bay and river systems connected to it by half and increase aquatic life by 25 percent within three years.

"I hope that this project will [cause] ripples and lead to sustainable coastal and the environment," he said.

"We may not notice it but we are already drifting ourselves here in Metro Manila. In this area is the heaviest zone of the country, we are generating the most toxic environment. There is no aquatic life to respond to the call of nature and we will unite for this cause on 'One Day One Bay'," he said.

DILG-National Capital Region Director Renato "Bong" Solidum, who will lead the campaign in Metro Manila, said the city of Manila will lead the clean-up operation in the bay, can be followed by the Bantay Volunteers Task Force and the city on Roxas Boulevard in Malate.

The 36 other cities and towns in Metro Manila will hold their own clean-up operations in waterways connected to the Manila Bay including the Pasig River, the DILG said in a press briefing on Friday at the DILG offices in Quezon City.

There are no specific targets, but Solidum expects the project to collect at least 100 tracks of garbage to be disposed of properly.

He added that it should take only 45 minutes to an hour to collect the garbage dumped in the waterways.

Solidum said the cleanup operations in the waterways connected to the Manila Bay including the Pasig River, will be done in close coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority.

Reviving a river

"It's too easy to kill a river system like a river, but it takes a lifetime to revive it," said Interior Secretary Robredo. Aside, chair of the DILG's Manila Bay Technical Working Group.

Having a recent Sorsogon visit, he said he had personally seen the very state of the Manila Bay, particularly the "oily texture and all the floating garbage" rich.

"This is the result of unregulated commercial neglect," Secretary said.

He added that it should take not just "one day" but a daily operation, or at the very least once a month activity, in order to see significant progress in the Manila Bay rehabilitation effort.

Manila Bay covers as the drain for water coming from Metro Manila, Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Bicol and Quezon, each called Luzon.

Although the catchment area covers the entire country, it is only 4,000 sq. km. of the Manila Bay's total area of 4,000 sq. km. that is considered to be in the bay.

The mangrove cover of Manila Bay has also deteriorated from 54,000 hectares in 1999 to only 425 in 2005. The fish catch has declined by 30 percent since 1978.

"If this trend continues, we may clearly imagine what may eventually happen to us," Robredo said.

Officials said 80 percent of the pollution in Manila Bay comes from households. There are some 457,664 households of informal settlers living around the waterways that lead to the bay.

The answer to this challenge is simple. Throw your trash in garbage disposal units and segregate. Even if many of us know this reality, majority from income rounds to just drop it to us," Brion said.

"Many Filipinos do not realize the inter-connectedness effect of our misbehavior to nature. The people of Metro Manila all share the same waters, thus, we are subjected to the hazards that flow with it," he said.

16 Pinoys bag 2nd in Asian math Olympiad

By Jerry E. Esplanada

SINGAPORE—The 16-member Philippine Mathematics team who just concluded 2011 Asian Inter-Cities Tournament Math Olympiad (AIMO) failed to make a glimpse of Mt. Everest, the world's highest mountain, and other peaks in the Himalayas, due to their tight schedule during their four-day competition.

But that did not dampen the spirit of the young members (ave., mostly high school students) from Metro Manila.

They ran are to fly back home on Thursday "feeling on top of the world" after winning five gold, seven silver and four bronze medals...plus seven trophies...in the 13-nation contest, held at the Maju International School (MIS) in Bukit Batok, located 12 kilometers northwest of Negeri's capital.

The 16-member band gave the Filipino math whizkids a second-place finish in the senior's individual contest.

Gold medalists

The Philippines' gold medalists were Ishiel Dacera Ay of St. Stephen's High School in Manila; Janis Theodor Chang and Bryan Benedict Cheng, both of Grace Christian College in Quezon City; Jesse Jesus Barrameda of the Philippine Science High School, also in Quezon City; and national secondary champion Timothy James Tee of Trinity Christian School in Bacolod City.

The silver medalists were Kevin Collin Tan, liberator's Beatrice Chua and Mikaela Angelica Ty, all of St. Jude Catholic School in Manila; Jo Rachel Hoyo and Ethan Riley Chua, both of Tandemonge Cheng Hua High School in Zamboanga City; Nathaniel Ryan Ang of Xavier School in San Juan City; and Brandon Chua of the Philippine Cultural College in Manila.

The bronze medalists were Samantha Tan and Shawn Gabrielle Cabanos, both of Zamboanga Cheng Hua High School; Andrew Cortina Go of St. Jude Catholic School; and Genevieve Anderson Concepcion of the Philippine Science High School.

Fifth-seeded gold from the Philippines, Thailand topped the silvers. The Thai team also bagged six silvers and three bronzes.

Bulgaria came in third with four gold, three silver and four bronze medals.

Overall champs

But the Bulgarian contestants were declared overall champions for winning eight bronzes in the group and team competitions, as well as the outstanding performance of India student Emilyan Bojadzhiev who took the Asian title with a perfect score.

Iran was fourth with four gold, followed by co-members China and South Korea with two gold.

They were followed by Taiwan, host Singapore, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Israel, Brunei, South Korea, India, and South Africa.

Dr. Steven Chan, president of the Mathematics Trainers' Guild Phils., headed the Philippine delegation, along with MTG team leaders Professor Gregoriano, Joseph Yan, Isidro Agudo, and Wilson Ty Wijaya.

Chan commended the Filipino medalists—all MTG team—for making the country's three schools and respective families proud.

"We may have failed to take a glimpse of Mt. Everest, but we do add all be thankful to Nepal and Math for helping us to the top of the world," Chan told the local press.

Like MIS student leaders, Ayes nam Sherbano, the school's executive director and principal, noted it was "fabulous pain the tournament accomplished in Singapore" for the Philippine team.

GMA now under arrest for electoral sabotage

From page A1

Regional Trial Court Branch 112 for the unbailable offense.

The officers were led from Arroyo's room to the cable's receiving area, where former Official Jose Pimentel, received arrest warrant and took over the details of the arrest.

Under the direction of Police Director Alex Paulmitan, we have served the arrest warrant on former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo," Bersamin said in an announcement. "We commend the PNP [Philippine National Police] officials for putting the institution who has a done adjustment, under hospital arrest.

"She was conscious and in a reclining position on her bed when we served the warrant. It was very evident that she was sick. But she smiled at us. Perhaps she had expected us already," he said. "She signed it at the turn out and. She looked like she just woke up. Not like [at the airport on Tuesday night], when she was carried out of the plane. She was just walking and smiling."

But to lawyers Raul Lambino, public will wonder the "breaking"—the standard taking of mug shots and fingerprints—under a 9 a.m. in her hospital room. Bersamin said:

"Depending on her condition, to be determined by government doctors, we will transfer [her] to the custody of the PNP on Monday," he said, adding that four grounds had been requested outside the case conference and another because of the maintenance of the hospital.

2nd Prez

Arroyo is the second former Philippine president to be arrested, after Joseph Estrada in 2001.

But unlike Estrada—who was eventually convicted of plunder, then even on supporters keep, ing right when she was arrested.

Shortly before the warrant was served, Estrada and Topacio, lawyers of Arroyo's husband, Mike Jose Lambino, Arroyo's legal spokesperson, made them, advice since to reporters.

Earlier on the day the two sides were defiant and optimistic, with Lambino announcing that the former President and her husband were headed home for Singapore yesterday afternoon.

"It's a matter of exercising their constitutional right to travel," he said.

Bersamin said anyone could find Arroyo depending on the hospital rules.

He said the meeting was ordered to talk to Arroyo's doctor, but they were not at the outset. As to Arroyo's husband Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, and their son, Congressman Juan Ponce Enrile "Jackie" Arroyo, were with the former President, along with Pimentel, Lambino and Topacio, for spokesperson Elena Bautista-Horilleno and former Cabinet members and relatives.

There were no children in the suite, Bersamin said.

Senate Superintendent Lizzaid said that while Arroyo was not on to jail, the important thing was that she was now under arrest.

HDO set aside

Lizzaid said Arroyo's continued had also been moved three more women—former Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan Jr., former police director-general Avelino Razon and former Maguindanao Election Supervisor Lintang Bedol of Camp Crame.

He said Arroyo was not considered a flight risk or suicidal, which was why police had kept security at a minimum.

Judge Mapagu-Lindayag Arroyo's arrest be purportedly explaining the results of the 2007 senatorial elections in Maguindanao.

He set aside the request of the Commission on Election Commissioner for the urgent manner of a hold-departure order against Arroyo and her two co-accused and ordered, which hearing on the motion set such an order on Monday at 9 a.m.

It is one page order the Branch 112 Clerk of Court Joel Tobias said to reporters. Minutes and that the petitioner's motion under the voluminous records of the case, he found probable cause against Arroyo, Ampatuan Jr. and Bedol.

The court based its finding of probable cause against Arroyo on the affidavit of Atty. Rosie Umpa-Abugen Sy's former secretary and Lopez Group lawyer, who testified in court on March 2011 after she was granted immunity from prosecution.

Arroyo with the other accused," Lizzaid said. Assistant Special Chairs Arellano and Abdusalam said included among those charged because the case that Gondela

From page A1

judicially determine the existence of probable cause," Topacio could argument.

"The evidence is so thick that even the two commissioners [of the Comelec] were not able to finish reading it," he said.

At 10 minutes, Atty. RTC Judge Jesus Mupas, to release the case was fulfilled, ordered the arrest of Arroyo at 6:30 p.m. Police went to St. Luke's Hospital in Taguig City where Arroyo is confined and served the arrest warrant at 8:30 p.m.

Prepare for worst

Topacio said that Arroyo first heard of the arrest order on TV.

He said she had been advised by her lawyers to "prepare for the worst" after the Comelec en banc "[Arroyo] knew something was about once I heard that the Comelec had set a meeting at 9 a.m. or two hours before the SC ruling," Topacio

He said Arroyo met with her lawyers in the adjoining room at lunch but she did not eat anything.

He said she felt pain all over her body and could not move too much.

Police asked if Arroyo would spend a day in jail, Topacio said it would all depend on the health condition. "If she gets better then she has to go to jail," said Topacio.

Arroyo's legal spokesperson, Raul Lambino, said he was not surprised that the electoral sabotage case was filed in Arroyo government officials have been reportedly announcing it.

He said the election sabotage case was "fabricated," explaining that the affidavit submitted by Rodolfo Aguinaldo Jr., the Secretary Magindanao governor, on Thursday showing Arroyo's involvement of duress in the rigging of the elections in the province was ignored by the Comelec. Department of Justice special panel that conducted the preliminary investigation of the case.

For Topacio, the independence of the Comelec, an independent constitutional body, had been breached for issuing part in the "railroading" of the case.

"For us, this is an unfair trade. It's hard to go against Malacañang," he said.

Before the news that an arrest warrant had been issued, Lambino said the medical conditions of the former President was "stable and OK" and that she was able to eat and walk around inside her hospital room.

"I don't know how this news of the election sabotage case could affect her," Lambino said.

Earlier yesterday, Topacio and Lambino told reporters that Arroyo was "in good spirits" and "calm" about what legal avenues to take against the case filed by the Comelec.

However, the two did not come out of the hospital after the warrant of arrest was served on her.

Cheers and applause

Militant and civil society groups protesting in front of the Supreme Court greeted with cheers and applause reports that the Comelec had filed an electoral sabotage case against Arroyo.

The Supreme Court composed two dissenting votes because of not enough votes for the Supreme Court to issue a temporary restraining order (TRO) to prevent the filing of the case.

Protesters in front of the Supreme Court composed two dissenting votes because of not enough votes for the Supreme Court to issue a temporary restraining order (TRO) to prevent the filing of the case.

Bayan Muna Rep. Neri Colmenares, who attended the rally and Arroyo had no reason to say that the charges against her were cooked.

"All the more against Arroyo have been pending for years and years—the cheating in the elections. The corruption cases such as the NBN-ZTE and the fertilizer cases. It's just Malacañang which took a long time building and fixing the cases," Colmenares said.

He said the MSR-ZTE case pending in the Ombudsman was supposed to be dismissed cabinet last month by resolution on Monday, the final day of the extension period. But it's still sought by the Arroyo government.

"We were not be lawyer but we have the right to express our fears, position and disappointment that the law is not observed by everyone. That's the feeling that we people have," Colmenares said in statement of the Black and White Movement.

Bayan Reps. Bayan Muna secretary general, said he hoped the Aquino administration would speed up the filing of other charges against Ms. Arroyo.

"We hope electoral sabotage will not be the only case that Arroyo will face," Casino said.

Rep. Teddy Casiño of Bayan Muna said he was pleased that Arroyo was finally being held accountable for her crimes.

"We have long demanded that she be held accountable for her crimes against the people," Casiño said.

Rep. Rafael Mariano of Anakpawis said he was pleased that Arroyo was finally being held accountable for her crimes against the people.

"We have long demanded that she be held accountable for her crimes against the people," Mariano said.

Rep. Teddy Casiño of Bayan Muna said he was pleased that Arroyo was finally being held accountable for her crimes against the people

Taiwan exec pleads guilty for underpaying Pinoy maid

KAMAS CITY, Missouri—A Taiwanese supermarket executive charged with violating US labor laws by underpaying and overworking her Filipina housekeeper had agreed to plead guilty to the charge, her lawyer said on Thursday (Friday in Manila).

Hsiou-Hwa Liu, director general of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (Twoc) in Kansas City, was charged in federal court on Nov. 10 with fraud in foreign labor contracting. She faced up to five years in prison and a $250,000 fine.

The court entered a not guilty plea on her behalf at her first appearance last week.

Liu's lawyer, Jim Wilmes, said on Thursday that Liu would plead guilty at a hearing on Friday.

He said he is working to have Liu's unsensitive probation and deported.

"We're going to plead guilty to the single charge that's against her," he said.

Wilmes said an agreement he was working with federal prosecutors also included Liu, 64, paying the housekeeper, who complained to authorities about her treatment. He said another previous housekeeper who still remains said he on FBI affidavit filed in the case also claimed Liu treated her badly would also receive a payment from Liu.

Wilmes said he could not disclose the amounts of the proposed payment on Thursday but said they were "not insignificant."

"That's just the right thing to do under the circumstances," he said.

Don Ledford, spokesperson for the US attorney's office in Kansas City, declined comment.

According to prosecutors, Liu's Kansas City Twoc office maintains unofficial relations between the United States and Taiwan and is similar to a foreign government consulate, although the US doesn't recognize Taiwan as a sovereign entity.

Prosecutors have said they believe Liu is the first foreign official to face a fraud in foreign labor contracting charge in the United States. Others have been prosecuted for maintaining domestic workers, but Liu is accused of violating a law covering the recruitment of foreign workers and then transport into the United States on fraudulent visas.

An FBI affidavit claims Tsou recruited the housekeeper in the Philippines in September 2011, according to the woman's visa application, but two-year employment contract called for her to be paid $1,240 a month, work 40 hour weeks and to be entitled to overtime pay.

Prosecutors claim the woman was actually paid $400 to $450 a month, worked 20- to 18-hour days and was monitored with video surveillance equipment at Liu's suburban Kansas City home in Johnson County, Kan. They also say Liu took the woman's passport and was "verbally abusive."

The US State Department did not immediately return a call seeking comment on Thursday.

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FREE INSTALLATION

Rare mineral found in underground river

OU TOP of its selection to the New 7 Wonders of Nature, the Puerto Princesa Underground River (PPUR) has earned a boost with the discovery of an extremely rare cave mineral—cave coralite.

Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward S. Hagedorn said the mineral was found by explorers under the tour from the underground river's destination joint and brought to the University of Bologna and the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, both in Italy for mineralogical analyses that led to the discovery of a completely new cave mineral, the aragonite, a monoclinic phosphate.

Collective triumph

The mayor had said the believes the visitors of PPUR shows to all that "this nation can unite to promote its best interests, and refusing to let it [PPUR] is a collective triumph led by no less than President Aquino and supported by millions of citizens who heeded our call to vote on our new marvel and relics."

Hagedorn said that while coralite is a well known cave mineral, aragonite was never found before in caves and it is extremely rare elsewhere. He added that 11 minerals have been found in PPUR, beating other caves worldwide for sheer wealth of minerals. Aragonite was only found once, in the pegmatites of Sierra Branca, Brazil, but its genesis is different from that of PPUR's.

"PPUR is really blessed with nature's bounty and wealthy to have been part of making history," Hagedorn said.

Most interesting cave

Geologist Pierre Farfi underscored the uniqueness of PPUR. He said it is the most interesting cave in the world from the point of view of geology and archaeology since it is also home to a 20-million-year-old fossil of a sea cow, or dugong, embedded on the limestone wall.

Hagedorn said that PPUR's success was the product of collective effort and he expressed gratitude to the members of the PPUR Task Force headed by Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo as chair, Tourism Secretary Ramon Jimenez, vice chair, and Environment Secretary Ramon Paje (national campaign manager), and "the entire Filipino people for their whole-hearted support to win a place in the N7WS."

Robredo took note of Hagedorn's support to PPUR. "It is Filipino civility and patriotism at its best. It is not just the pride and joy of the people of Palawan but of the entire country as well," he said.

Hagedorn also expressed gratitude to President Aquino for being the No. 1 supporter of PPUR.

"But above all, we thank God for enabling the Philippines and especially Isabella, Inc., our country is an incredibly beautiful country and the PPUR is just one of her many natural wonders. We don't have to look hard to find at least one natural wonder in each of the country's region or provinces. And we in Puerto Princesa City will be more than ready and willing to support these natural wonders. That's the least we can do considering the outpouring of support we got nationwide," Hagedorn concluded.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Burden of blame

EDITORIAL

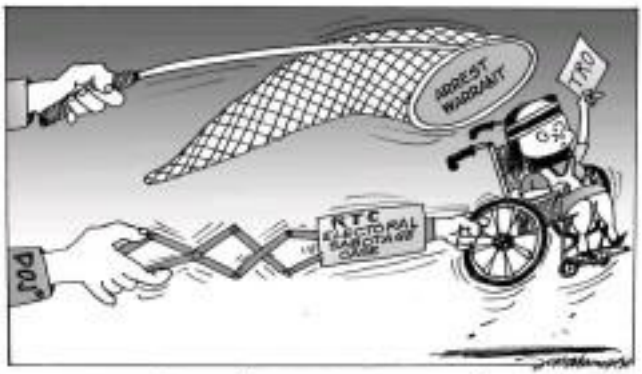
IN THE wake of the Supreme Court ruling granting an "immediately executory" temporary restraining order against the Department of Justice's watch list banning former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo from leaving the country, Malacañang was faced with two options: to comply with the ruling, or to resist it. It chose the latter. Justice Secretary Leila de Lima's decision to order the Bureau of Immigration and airport authorities to deny the Arroyo couple any exit pass, on the grounds, firstly, that the government had not received a copy of the Supreme Court's TRO, and secondly, that the ruling could not be deemed final yet since the government intended to file a motion for reconsideration, led inevitably to the bizarre fracas at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport last Wednesday night, when a supposedly sick, extremely fragile Arroyo endured a gauntlet of showing shooting bodies to try to board a plane bound for Singapore. She failed, and had to be returned to a hospital bed at St. Luke's.

It took only a few hours, but the result of the spectacle of Malacañang and the Supreme Court getting into a mighty tussle was to drag the country into treacherous, unfamiliar terrain, the outcome of which could prove worse than the immediate danger of letting the Arroyos to self-exile abroad. The DOJ's refusal to carry out an order from the high court brought the two co-equal branches of the government perilously close to an all-out constitutional clash. Most legal experts unsurprised by bloodthirsty networks have been of the irresistible opinion that the Supreme Court, whatever misgivings one might have about the quality or motivations of its ruling, has the authority to issue the TRO, and that De Lima's justification for ignoring it are tenuous at best and useless at worst. "Those enlisted by the Court must obey—if they recognize that we are under the rule of law," opined constitutionalist Fr. Joaquin Bernas, S.J.

Malacañang could have opted for the larger statesmanlike gesture by saying it strongly disagreed with the Court's decision, but would nevertheless respect and enforce it. The usual carpers, of course, would have seen that as another manifestation of the congenital weakness of the Aquino administration or even a willingness to let the Arroyos off the hook that easily has, on the ridiculously political matter of ensuring that the former first couple would be physically present to answer the slew of charges that have been filed against them, deferring to the so-called wisdom of the Court would have allowed Malacañang the opportunity to transfer ownership of the issue to the Supreme Court. Should the Arroyos flee their court cases, the onus for that miscarriage of justice would now fall on the eight magistrates, every single one of them an Arroyo appointee, who, as routinely pointed out by Associate Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno in her dissenting opinion, seemed to be in an inordinate hurry to grant the Arroyos reprieve from the DOJ watch list, despite their "inconsistent, and probably unjustified maneuvers" to the Court.

What looked like the Arroyo camp's stunt of having the sick, wheelchair-bound former president go through a full-frontal charge at the airport appears not to have swayed public opinion to her side. And for all the Arroyos' loud and oft-repeated protestations to censure, harassment by their lawyer's supremely graceless vow to have his testicles lopped off should his clients emerge on that premise, many remain disbelieving and mistrustful—and for good reason, given the Arroyos' track record of lying and deceit. What if they did fail to return? the Supreme Court was asked. Midas Marquez, the high court's spokesperson, very helpfully said the Arroyos' P2-million bond would be forfeited—a sum, incidentally, that's inane change to the couple, having been produced, in cash, within an hour or two after the TRO was promulgated.

Malacañang is now torn between standing down and plunging the country into a constitutional crisis. Politically it would have little to lose if it gives the Arroyos their travel papers. Should they end up submitting the country's justice system by evading their legal accountabilities here, the unforgiving moral burden for that will rest on the Supreme Court.



Time of visitation spurned?

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

IN HIS 1965 essay "Tyranny of the Open," Charles Diamond warned: "Our greatest danger is letting regress things won for the supreme."

It was urgent that the anti-medieval sentiment abroad, former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo was told the Supreme Court. There were no pending court charges and she had a right to travel. Eight justices who had appointed Arroyo liked to issue a temporary restraining order (TRO).

A hasty TRO "could frustrate the government's right to prosecute," cautioned Associate Justice Carpio, the lone rebel justice. Filipinos never had. "This Court must hear first the government in oral arguments..."

Yesterday, the Commission on Elections decided, by a 3-to-2 vote, to file poll sabotage charges against GMA. Across the road, the Supreme Court rejected by an 8-5 vote the solicitor general's motion to scrap the hospital TRO. It ordered Justice Secretary Leila de Lima to explain why she should not be held in contempt of court for shrugging off the TRO. Problem, Gloria and Mike?

In October, the joint Department of Justice and Commission on Elections panel recommended that GMA and 35 others be probed, and charged if warranted, with fraud in the 2007 election. GMA lawyers scoffed out in protest.

Others tagged included former Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Jr. and former Commissioner Rhodora Parra, former Justice Secretary Alberto de Agoo, supervisor Lintang Bedol and Armored Group Brigadier-Gen (ret) Angelino Ng.

Beyond the TRO and charges by the GMA camp of "railroading election sabotage charges" lurks a long-range lament. These are stoked up by the clash between a President who seeks to hold the corrupt accountable and Supreme Court justices who say they seek the same end. Arroyo justices are babbled by charges of robust excise.

However this TRO tune plays out, the issue of GMA's health will persist. That "closest of allies" that Arroyo says on her earlier abandoned departure flight was not a pest on. The Mitsubishi Prince should be worn for three months, St. Luke's hospital doctors say.

Prognosis by her Filipino physicians even that barring complications, GMA should be fully recovered from spine surgery in six to eight months. Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno noted: The metabolic bone disease needs lifetime maintenance treatment.

Arroyo's allies of life threatening ailments fall short of "evidentiary requirements for a TRO," Sereno said. "The majority is completely bereft" of any explanation for granting a premature TRO "in the face of controlled statements," she added.

Have Tilchis become a boy one-take-one child? The completed Senate blue ribbon committee report on the sale of overpriced helicopters to the Philippine National Police rags Mike Arroyo, among others. Sec. Ito separately request for a TRO has been wrinkled into his opponent's petition.

"Who has more how to leave by virtue of consolidation," Inquirer's Raul Pangalangan pointed out. "How did Mike get to benefit from Gloria's medical emergency?"

If one asked Hamlet, he'd have shrugged: "There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio/ Than are dreamt of in your philosophy."

Indeed, the "TRO proved the wisdom of packing the high court with one's appointees—for that foreseeable future when one is forced to call in favors," an Inquirer editorial pointed out.

"Why didn't Chief Justice Renato Corona inhibit himself?" wondered Inq7.net columnist Frank Malilong. "[This] case personally involved his former boss."

President Aquino dropped senior justices to hand her former chief of staff a midnight appointment. Thus former Sec. Butz Aquino and some-or-a "de facto chief Justice."

Like Juan Manuel Marquez of Mexico, the Department of Justice cannot "accept a referee's decision graciously," observes constitutionalist Joaquin Bernas. A TRO means "executive officials must allow GMA to travel effective immediately," until the court lifts the order—"if we're to abide by the rule of law."

Secretary De Lima's stress is that a motion for reconsideration stops TRO dead in its tracks. That would render any TRO absolutely useless.

Martial law detainees were denied the right to travel under Presidencia (1081). Most still lack immediately nurse by Father Bernas' constitutional insights, buried by detention under the dictatorship, our minds insist that the Constitution must be upheld. But one gets rebel at all those "dangers ineffable" that the framers warned.

In Comelec mythology, Lazaro earned the wrath of the dragon slain at the spring of Ayao. And from there one marches to do battle for Juan. The phrase means systematic honoring of dignity.

As her bids for term extension failed, GMA appointed scores to the judiciary, Pagcor and other government-corporate-tie before leaving Malacañang. That "Midnight Appointee" Pagcor gambler who got a Comelec berth post, Gov. Dedin Bangilan's soon as APP denied of staff was extended by 11 months. President Aquino fired Bangilan. "Despite merit" however still battle for her.

Arroyo had an unprecedented 10 years of serving as president. It was a window of opportunity for greatness. That slammed shut in a decade of disaster when she let urgent things crowd out the important. Sad to say, she did not "know the time of visitation."

• • •

Email: jmercado@pacific.net

Rushed

GET REAL

Sukhe Cullar-Horsted

IN ANY case, the denial by the Supreme Court of the government's motion for reconsideration on the TRO was of interest and purpose to most and academic, given the formal charges filed against her.

Being some Monday-morning quarterbacking, it is clear that the intransigence of Justice Secretary Leila de Lima was because she was desperately waiting for the Commission on Elections to do what she couldn't do, which was to file charges of "electoral sabotage" against Arroyo, apparently based on the report of the Comelec lawyers who, jointly with the DOJ, conducted a fact-finding investigation and then a preliminary investigation. And the Comelec finally came through. As of this writing, Judge Mupas, to whom the case was raffled, has apparently issued a warrant of arrest against her.

"Electoral sabotage," although introduced only in the election automation law of 2007, is a very serious charge, a capital crime, actually because it carries with it a penalty of life imprisonment—and therefore non-bailable when evidence of guilt is strong. So, it is entirely possible that if arrested, the former president would go straight to detention, or at least be under hospital or house arrest. And presumably there will be much celebration on President Aquino's side of the fence, because it has been reported that the latter feared that Arroyo would be in jail by the end of the year. (I must report though that while I have read accounts where members of the Arroyo camp claim that Prior made this vow, I have not found any quotes attributable to Erlog, or news reports to the effect that he made the promise.)

What I find disturbing, however, is the rush by the Comelec to file charges, particularly since it is supposed to be an independent constitutional body not a Malacañang lackey. Consider the following facts:

On Aug. 11, 2011, in a five-page joint order signed by Sec Lima and Comelec Chair Sixto Brillantes, the DOJ and the Comelec created the joint preliminary investigation committee and the joint fact-finding team to investigate the allegations of vote-and-sabotage against Arroyo and others. (Also's hours after that order contained, but on the face of it, creating the two bodies at the same time must carry with it the assumption that the fact-finding team was going to find facts that would lead to a preliminary investigation.

On Oct. 12, 2011, according to De Lima, the fact-finding team was to have submitted their report, forwarding it to the joint preliminary investigation committee. I was unable to access a copy of the fact-finding team's report, but from the DOJ press release, it seemed to me that everything was hurried, until Oct. 31, when former Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan Jr.'s chief aide, Norie Unas, revealed that he had overheard Arroyo ordering Ampatuan to deliver a 12-0 vote for the administration candidates in the 2007 senatorial race, reportedly some account (and Ampatuan has just called Unas a liar and denied that the conversation took place).

On Nov. 14, or five days ago, the joint preliminary investigation committee completed its investigation.

On Nov. 16, per the Comelec chair, he received a copy of the report of the Comelec lawyers involved in the investigation, and its recommendations. Note: Only two days elapsed between the time of completion of the investigation and the recommendation.

On Nov. 17, the Comelec en banc voted to file charges against Arroyo, with two commissioners refusing to sign because they had not read the report.

Does that sound rushed or not?

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Terraces of poverty

SOCIAL CLIMATE

Mahar Mangahas

Before that, poverty was flat at about 41 percent in 1998-2003.

The annual average (percentage of self-rated poor families) was 43 in 1985, 39 in 1988, 38 in 1997, 41 in 1998, 42 in 1999, 37 in 2000, 40 in 2003, 41 in 2002, and 40 in 2006. The average of these annual numbers is about 41. Every number (except, marginally, the 37 of 2000) is statistically equivalent to 41, and so the trajectory during 1985-2006 was more or less flat, as on a terrace.

Meanwhile, the annual average in 2011 is well above the average of 41 from 2003 to third quarter 2011. Then, during 1995-2005, poverty was on a terrace about 10 points higher than the present one.

And before that, poverty was flat at about 44 percent in 1988-1994.

The average annual percentage of self-rated poor families was 46 in 1988, 42 in 1989, 48 in 1990, 47 in 1991, Aktan 1992, 45 in 1993, and 48 in 1994. The average of these seven numbers is 46. Only three numbers was more or less flat, as on a terrace, but 11 points higher than the present one. (In 1988, 1989 had only one national survey. The 1988-1991 figures are averages of two surveys per year, since 1992, the Social Weather Surveys have been quarterly.)

Then, from the long perspective of 1988-2011, poverty has fallen, and gradually, but by drops from "terrace 46" to "terrace 41" to "terrace 37." But the present was the least at the start of the 1990s, the accompanying Millennium Development Goal, for 2015, using the SWS instrument, would be 33 percent. We are still far from this goal.

The new Philippine Development Plan is running in grooving fr. 2%. "For every percentage point increase in income growth in the Philippines, poverty incidence falls by about 1.5 percentage points." In the first place, this pace shows that the effect is not at all smooth. Secondly, the 1.5 coefficient was based on (official) poverty data up to 2009 only, with post-2009 data considered, the historical poverty-to-growth less.

Remember that poverty increased during 1983-87. This depiction of poverty dropping from terrace to terrace does not imply that economic growth surely pushes poverty down to the next lower terrace. It just has a "ratchet down" economics again, forewards are possible.

ERP was a moderate 10 percent in 1983, when surveyed was outside for the first time (by the Development Academy of the Philippines). But it hit 74 percent in 1985 (surveyed by the Bishops-Business Conference), obviously due to the Ninoy assassination of 1984-1985. It subsided in new ages of 67 percent in 1986, and even to 47 percent in 1987, as consumer prices stabilized, only to rise in the upper 60s starting in 1988, when double-digit inflation returned.

The population handicap. Surveys regularly show that big families are more vulnerable to poverty and hunger. Here are percentages from the SWS survey of September 2011 (with more thanks to families first for the tabulation):

Household Size	Self-rated Poverty	Involuntary Hunger
1-2	44	17.7
3-4	31	18.8
5-6	34	21.1
7-8	43	25.1
9+	66	30.6
Philippines	42	21.9

* * *

Contact SWS: www.sws.org.ph or mahar.mangahas@sws.org.ph.

MRT diary

YOU'D HAVE a lot of people in public students, but you are far too preoccupied to even notice them. You might encounter a number of strangers in a jampacked bus, but you can barely see their faces. You can't be seated inside a jeepney with more than a dozen other people, but the noise, heat, and pollution are a big distraction. It is only in the MRT that you can read people's faces and know their stories.

* * *

I saw a man on a Monday. You were dressed just like me and the many other commuters patiently waiting for the next train to arrive. I was in my usual office dress. You were in a

high waist, semi-fitted, black shirt paired with a white blazer and office pants. You were about to join on a black when the train arrived, unloading a bunch of people getting off at other six and running toward the vacuum as fast as they could.

YOUNG BLOOD

Ma. Erika Ofreneo and P Castillejo

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twenty-something set. Send your contributions to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph. Please include your name, age and school. Write to us at youngblood@inquirer.com.ph.

You looked tired to me, until you noticed me and after a man in his late-twenties. Elderly and pregnant women were bumped you on his way out. You were blocking the train's door. You were rushing in while people were still alighting, and then you cursed. You were a young professional, an educated lady in my eyes at that, until I heard you cursing.

We got on the train, and briefly found seats.

* * *

I saw you on a Tuesday. You were the only man seated in that part of the train. I remembered how my father was how I called my grandfather) looked when he was still alive, and he looked like you: tall, wrinkled, gray haired, a kind smile crept into my face as memories of Tatay flashed in my mind.

Then people started to file in and out, rushing as soon as the train's door opened at the station. I was amazed that you stood up to give your seat to a woman with a child. You were elderly but still managed to be a gentleman. Or so I thought.

I was about to salute you for what you did, but then I saw you nudging as a young lady's bread knife to vanish on your face. Pending might have been robbed, but then you moved nothing your intention against her behind.

You are not like my grandfather after all. You are not even close to being a gentleman.

The lady alighted in the next station.

* * *

I saw you on a Wednesday. You were not like any of us seated in the forward coach. Your hair was way shorter, your money was number than a man's. You were not body enough to find a seat.

Then the guard started inspecting inside the train. He gave you a second, a third, and a fourth look. Finally he told you that a big part of the train was just for women, children and the elderly.

You said, "Excuse me," with the softest female voice, held your arm up, pulled your stomach in and thrust your chest forward. And the guard fell, embarrassed.

I found it funny how you could instantly put your best nine side on display inside the train and how hard you tried to mask it again when you got off.

* * *

I saw you on a Thursday. You were carrying your baby. It seemed like you had not eaten for days. Your hair was messy, your clothes were torn in many. Your baby was crying out loud.

I offered you my seat so that you would be more comfortable, but you refused to. You remained standing.

Then I saw you approaching every passenger there, begging for money as the baby cried out louder and louder each time. Some passengers looked away. Others gave you a coin or two. Still others became irritated when you poked them repeatedly to ask for alms.

Your time came for me. You paid for the fare when you could have used the money to buy food. You used your child to elicit sympathy although you could have gone begging alone.

I gave you a coin.

* * *

I saw you on a Friday. You were among the blank faces inside the train. Your maternity dress suited you well. You were going to be a pretty mom, I thought.

Then you started rubbing your tummy slowly. As you touched it downwards, I was amazed by its size and shape. The roundness of being a woman, of being a mother. Rushed to front of me, I was overwhelmed and happy. I said to myself.

Then I saw tears rolling down your cheeks. All of a sudden, you were crying.

A little boy gave you his hanky.

* * *

I saw you on a Saturday.

You were fully made up and wearing a lacy sleeveless top, short shorts and red shoes. Your hair was curled and styled. You were chatting with someone on your iPhone. You were the only one talking so loud inside the train. You were the only one laughing so hard. Everyone else was either sleepy or staring blankly somewhere.

We all alighted at the last stop, and you were still talking with someone. When we reached the exit, you were ingenious. You couldn't find your ticket—and your wallet. Someone your daughter and noisy chit-chat, someone must have found the opportunity to distract you of your purse.

We passed by you as you began to cry.

* * *

I wish someone will see me and try to know me, too. But I am not riding a train on a Sunday.

Ms. Erika Ofreneo, P Castillejo, 23, is a marketing communications specialist at Everest Electric Asia Ltd. (EEAL).

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

THEY SAID

Disaster laboratory

"All of these natural hazards are making us the prime laboratory for the study of disasters all over the world."

—Phivolcs Chief science executive director Ma. Antonia J. Tuño (Lessons in hot hours as disaster risk and proper advice on the Bamboo Organ)

Why schools are failing our children (1)

HUFFPO. It's classic to bring research-based, the present K-12 curriculum seriously ignores language in the classroom. Findings which—for the the use of the first language (L1) as medium of instruction for only up to Grade 3 and thereafter with the transition enhancement, shifts to English and Filipino as second languages (L2s) but instruction. The reverse clearly underestimates the ability of our children to learn languages. Their early grades are a strong foundation to learning to read and write in both the L1 and in the L2. The premise for the L1 as a separate subject in isolation but cannot make up for the deleterious effects of the early exit nature of the K-12 curriculum.

The effectiveness of bilingual education methods in the United States who cannot read and write proficiently in English led the Department of Education in 2002 to create a panel to address this problem. One of the panel's major findings is that oral proficiency and literacy in the L1 are crucial determinants for literacy in English.

The panel's report is clear that the disparity between the word-level and text-level (comprehension) skills of non-native and native English learners can be traced to the difference in their oral language proficiency. Oral proficiency in English is not a strong predictor of the English learner's ability to read non-native English speakers, but a strongly associated with comprehension and writing skills for these students.

Children's ability to learn an L2 is enhanced when their L2 is the primary language of instruction strengthens their classroom grades. Their ability to and literacy in a cognitive and linguistic foundation for learning additional languages. When the child fully develops his cognitive academic language proficiency (CALP) in the L1, the can provide a successful transfer of the communication ability in the L2. If you have reading ability in your L1, this ability can be transferred to the L2.

COMMENTARY

Magtanggol T. Gunigundo I

you fix-not have to learn to read again.

According to Dave Dickenson Hayes, six years of L1 education is an absolute minimum but eight years is better. He found that in Ethiopia those who had eight years of mainly L1 medium and who have studied Amharic (the Assimilation national language) and English as subjects proficiency than those students in primary, intermediate and English. Those with six years were not as good, and those who quickly shifted to English, fared the worst.

A UP College of Education study in 2004 made by Prof. Lourdes Diaz Bautista shows that the ability of Filipino-Filipino to acquire Filipino is approximately resulted to Grade 6. Most importantly the same study shows that the younger the level, opinion to the L1, the stronger the proficiency in the L2.

In contrast, in the submersion model (which is used in the Philippines) students are confused in academically expose what their teachers saying but fail to decode and understand the meaning of the utterances. The submersion model further assumes that the child will automatically master the language of education during the process of education. What is happening is that many of our schools is a lot of decoding but without understanding. This is one of the reasons our schools are failing our children.

Unfortunately but not surprisingly, data from the 2008 Functional Literacy and Mass Media survey (FLEMMS) tend to show that the submersion model really does not work. It considers the following:

1. Some 5million of the 14 million elementary graduates had no comprehension skills.

2. Another 1-2 million of the 11.8 million students who had reached high school had also an comprehension skills.

3. Nine million Filipinos could not compute.

4. Twenty million Filipinos (3 out of 10) did not read newspapers or books.

These are the underlying reasons I sponsored House Bill No. 302, otherwise known as the Multilingual Education and Literacy Bill. The bill promotes the use of the L1 as MOI from Grades 1 to 6. It advocates the strengthening of English and Filipino as subjects further allow because the MOI in high school with the L1 as auxiliary medium. It also provides for the intensive pre-service and in-service training of teachers and materials development in the L1. It also provides that the language of teaching must be the language of testing.

Mr. Jeff proposed access with size of 10 things President Aquino presented in his Philippine basic education. This concerns the rationalization of the medium of instruction. The President believes that we should become bilingual as a country and that we should "teach English well to connect to the world, teach Filipino well to connect to our country, and retain your mother tongue to connect to your heritage."

We live in a multicultural and multilingual world. All languages are equal to the task of accessing and communicating this world. But I believe we should elevate our people primarily in their first languages or L1 and not in English or in Filipino which are second languages (L2) as most Filipinos.

* * *

Magtanggol T. Gunigundo I represents the second district of Bulacan in the 15th Congress and is deputy majority leader in the House of Representatives.

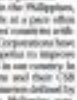
Responsibility without coercion

ON OCT. 18 to 19, practitioners and advocates of corporate social responsibility in the Philippines held "how-all, never-ending" convergence at the Iloilo Shangri-La Mactan hotel to participate in the 2011 Asian Forum on Corporate Social Responsibility. On its 10th year, the AFCSR provided us an excellent opportunity to look back and see how much CSR has evolved in the past decade.

Philippine companies have long moved on from, or at least added to, their charity projects and old dole-s that characterized early CSR of late in the 1960s. Today, such buzzwords as "multi-stakeholder engagement," "creating shared value" and "strategic CSR" reflect the continuing evolution, sophistication and direction that characterize the ever-shifting corporate citizenship. While companies are still concerned with preserving their human lives, they are now just as committed to looking after the welfare of their employees, the wider community to which they belong, and the environment. Corporations, big and small, are now working together with communities, NGOs and the government to formulate creative and effective responses to the overarching problems of widespread poverty through education, health, housing, livelihood, microfinance, environmental protection, and anti-corruption and good governance programs. Moreover, these programs are increasingly being undertaken not as ancillary projects separate from the companies' core businesses but as embedded components of the firms' business strategy.

What is remarkable is that, in the Philippines, the evidence for these above practices is not limited to large, unregulated entrepreneurs, spurred by the business lines' own acknowledgement and acceptance that they have a greater role to play in society than growing their businesses and generating profit. It is no wonder then that efforts in Congress to pass a law on CSR have failed to materialize. CSR advocates have strong opposition from local CSR practitioners. House Bill 47-C (passed on third and final reading) and Senate Bill 2747 (pending second reading) provide for the passage of a CSR Act.

BUSINESS MATTERS



Ramon R. del Rosario Jr.

During the AFCSR, I had the privilege of being invited to participate in a very interesting debate on the topic, "Should CSR be regulated to the point of being legislated?" The speakers for the pro side were Prof. David Vogel, director of the Haas Center for Corporate Responsibility at the University of California; and Dr. Carlos Cortezia, research director of Mining Watch Canada. My partner in the con side was the respected former businessman Chito Salazar-Ong.

In my opening statement during the debate, I laid out four arguments that form the basis of my opposition to CSR's regulation and legislation.

First, there is no need for it. In the Philippines, CSR has evolved since the 1960s at a pace often more advanced than in most other countries with no or any legislative intervention. Corporations have not relied on any legislative impetus to improve and enhance the practice of CSR in our country in terms of regulation, cooperation and their CSR work are already subject to parameters defined by existing agencies and structures. Philippine companies are governed by the Securities and Exchange Commission's Code of Corporate Governance, which mandates principles of fairness, accountability and transparency. Additional legislation would not only be superfluous but also onerous.

Second, the manner and degree by which CSR is conducted are best determined by corporate management. Government cannot select that CSR must conform to be required to a set/sub value or percentage of a company's income or assets because the capacity to do CSR and profitability and financial condition may greatly from industry to industry, from firm to firm. There is no substitute to the judgment of the people running a company to determine the degree and manner by which their firm should engage in CSR.

Third, mandated CSR, which could be construed as double taxation, may constitute an undue burden that could threaten a firm's viability and competitiveness. In the Philippines, 99.2 percent of the formal business sector is actually composed of small and micro enterprises. Making CSR compulsory for all of them would fundamentally hamper the growth of entrepreneurship. Corporations in the Philippines already pay one of the highest tax rates in the region.

Fourth, legislating CSR will tend to stifle rather than enhance the development of CSR. Legislation tends to encourage minimalist compliance instead of CSR. As they have stated, for example, the recent proposed bills in the House of Representatives and the Senate are still focused on corporate giving and the implementation of projects and programs external to companies' core businesses. As I mentioned above, CSR has evolved significantly into a more strategic and embedded type of corporate citizenship, to the developing framework. CSR is now integrated into the choice of business, the vision and mission setting, stakeholder analysis, and implementation plans. Thus, as currently formulated, the proposed legislation would only encourage outmoded forms of CSR and would be rendered irrelevant by the continuing changes in the CSR landscape.

At the AFCSR, it was inspiring to see the determination of corporate social responsibility and the ability of many companies to embrace and to evolve it further, and these mostly served to underline that government should never encourage the continued growth of CSR by a minimum of interference and creating an enabling environment for corporate citizenship. In other words, if it ain't broke, don't fix it.

* * *

Ramon R. del Rosario Jr. is the chairman of the Makati Business Club. Please send your comments to mbdelrosario@hotmail.com.

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Another big fraud on Juan

LETTERS

THE ABOVE is an apt pulling another big fraud on Juan de la Cruz. Even Juanito can tell that Ghets and Mike Arroyo were so social and evade its joinder and silence fraud charges against them. They are on a very cozy ride. Blaming the country's the situation quickly they need to do desperately.

Ghets and Mike can vibe the coming to them. Ghets had to see stubbies in the hospital to seek treatment of ailments, most of which people think are exaggerated, made-up, or both. Her medical team were made to look so serious that even the stars of the in St. Luke's Hospital rumors must be.

In fact, she has been acting out the drama as if only the village idiot can see quite what is really going on. In the first place, her medical problems, if any, are known as for the rest that can be treated easily by way to of surgeon and endocrinologists. To allow the lawyers to go ahead is like letting loose two big stinking rats to the subdemaria. It will lead to a game of hide-and-seek. But we will never see them again. "Catch as it you can" will be the name of the game.

She claims that her and his husband's constitutional right to travel is being violated by a search list order (SLO). It is true that every citizen has the right to travel to any place in or outside the country, but the right is not absolute and may be limited on valid, legal grounds—like interpose of which is the "police power of the state." the inherent power of the government to exercise reasonable control over persons and property with in jurisdiction to the interest of the general security, health, safety, morals and welfare of the people.

The rule is etched in our Constitution and is one of the nine-honed inherent and intrinsic powers of the state to [illegible] from destruction, and to promote and uphold moral justice, peace, security and public order.

We don't care if some people consider almost like alleged violation of their constitutional right to travel become common sense, the core of every social, ethical, doctrinal and legal precepts, dictates that such right (to travel) cannot be invoked by people accused of having breached the law and there is a clear and present danger of greater than they may be guilty. Therefore, they must be banned from leaving the country.

Of course, the lawyer may still have an ace up their sleeve. Most of the Supreme Court justices we bet appointees. "Will they demand for a perfect bail? Let's wait and see.

—RENEE BIDON, Esq.,
manny@bsmv@verizon.net

Proud of Filipinos for saying Marquez really won

All 3 Filipinos I should be happy does my counterpart Manny Pacquiao 'won' a majority decision over Juan Manuel Marquez, we agree. But I think another, if many of us were confused with the decision in the second round, I was interested and joined in the heart-rending cacophony of boos and jeers.

Pacquiao won, no the judges were. But more of the Filipinos in the Philippines or in the big dreams 'where I smashed the floor were not happy either. They were simply "proud." Since the winner was announced, my concern my friend everyone is in agreement that Marquez should have won the fight. I looked around and saw they were not. Mixed reps.

In the concession where we took late lunch, people were saying the same thing. There my wife explained to her fellow cast at to community prepared to fill cannon. Most people who visited and called in, including the architects, were of the same mind. We asked our children who saw the delayed telecast on TV sport serving home, "Manny won!" they exclaimed.

So sad, but if only for this, I am happy and I am proud to be a Filipino because majority of us still have eyes to see the truth and the requirements to admit that our Pacquiao lost. "Dissonance" is the better term and it is not the new NBO referee-weight champion, Congressman, Manuel Pacquiao but me, Jaime.

The following [illegible] right some fraud and perversion in boxing. Among them is PPV "private" view. Both [illegible] about another "itch" reminds only so we is as a leverage against the Mayweather camp as he doesn't do a bigger paycheck with the Pacquiao-Marquez rematch.

The word is that boxing Competitor is like the auto theft who tells you ten-to-three and continues that [illegible].

Third is that boxing judges today are at their "best" looking to the numbers when numbers were not numbers—the judge a fight fought while they were their jobless.

Fourth is that the two great combat-spectators—Freddie Roach and Abel Anton—are the biggest losers in the fight. They need to be award sympathy drawers for losing their souls.

What's happening to the care of boxing?

—SENOR VALENCIA,
vasilencia@yahoo.com

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GMA should be grateful she's not a poor patient

A 700 dress and that Gloria Macapagal Arroyo wore at Ilaya a home. "How she is paying for what she did to our country. Most of us poor have been suffering, yet we silence even allow us to be government."

I don't think Arroyo best explains GMA's suffering. Otherwise, the corrupt, the rich, the exploiters and the oppressors would as well join us, since both and with the poor. "Oh, you are dying of kidney failure? Welcome to the misery."

Indeed, it is very unfortunate that in a land long under foreign rule, dominated by a powerful elite and trafficked by corruption, the poor majority are made to suffer for the sins of a very few.

Like every Filipino, GMA deserves to get medical attention and services. After all, "God causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous." (Matthew 5:45) But to free, life has been good to her despite her. Having to be being treated is one of the best hospitals in the country. Besides, she has also highly paid lawyers and spokespersons to defend her from public backlash.

We do want her to regain her health so that she can answer for her role in the alleged election fraud, government corruption and human rights violations during her dispensation presidency. The billions of pesos lost to corruption could have been used for social services like health, education, efficient and cheap public transport system, communication and housing. As stated, it is the poorest who are the direct victims of corruption.

"Sana hindi sana matuloan ng pahintulot ng korporasyon na pumasok individual ng salary bond." Rep. Kimi Rimas-Hora, GMA's spokesperson and GMA's defense. But, of course, she must be aware that long before her boo-boo, she and do two and pass Philippines like him have been denied of their constitutional rights and have been called traitor no more appropriate. We mean self-proclaimed filmmaker Arroyo, the schoolgirl who summoned rapists in 2007 because of poverty. Or has the forgotten date in 2009 Filipinos were outraged when then President Gloria and her friends spent $20,000 for a lavish dinner in a newly renovated White House?

GMA should really be thankful that she is still breathing. Imagine where she would be by now if the voice just one of the [illegible] Lumen pass from workers whose take home pay is only P8.50 a week. She should be thankful she is not an unemployed worker spending her hours in the Philippine General Hospital waiting for their turn to be given medical attention. She should be thankful that she is not among those who have to beg PGH for donations. The list goes on saying. GMA is not among those who have to beg PGH for donations. The list goes on saying. GMA is not among those who have to beg PGH for donations. The list goes on saying. GMA is not among those who have to beg PGH for donations.

The last is poor Filipinos are being denied social and economic justice. And we need a conscious does not even an enjoyable 700 good, livable, services, equally accessible to all Filipinos. We do not need the President to offer financial assistance as an [illegible] very, very rich woman.

—ADELBA FORLLACA,
Kapatiran ng Dating Mga Pasyente ng Bayan,
Kamahalayan, kamihayan@yahoo.com.ph

Oldest Roman Catholic relic in the Philippines?

IN THE Oct. 16, 2011 issue of the Inquirer, there was a news report about the Philippine bells that were taken by the American soldiers during the Filipino-American war 110 years ago. It seems that one bell is marked "1402," another "1690," and the third, "1896."

But I point out that the church bell in Barangay Dapdap in Tacloban City, called "Tanauan," has inscribed in Roman's Santo, has a visible marking of "1483," and therefore could be considered the oldest Roman Catholic relic in the entire Catholic Church in the country.

It may be noted further that it was in Barangay Dapdap, Tacloban, Leyte, where the [illegible] Christian and Islamic Peace was concluded. The old church on top of the hill in 1996, together with a tower and that many call a "Walking Bell" because, up to now, it draws pilgrims who believe the years there can cure ailments and diseases.

Also, the people of the Barangay Dapdap and Tanauan adopted St. Francis of Assisi as their patron saint.

—ENG. "FELITO" S. LUCERO,
San Francisco Street,
Tacloban City, Leyte

INQUIRER Visayas
Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Connie E. Fernandez

'PROSTI-TUITION'

Students by day, sex workers by night

By Clarisse Gay Ursal
Cebu City

TWENTY-YEAR-OLD Sophia looks like a typical collegiate who has a dream of becoming a respected lawyer someday.

Barely 5 feet tall, she keeps a low profile at the Catholic-run school in Cebu City, where she is a freshman student, as she doesn't want to call anybody's attention to herself.

It is because she keeps a secret from her classmates. She sells her flesh to pay her school bills.

Sofia works as a GRO (guest relations officer) in an elite night club and offers sexual services to men, mostly foreigners.

"I don't want if I'm a prostitute. I still finish my studies to realize what," she said.

Sofia's case is not isolated. According to Julito Benjamin, head of the International Justice Mission (IJM) Cebu's Community Mobilization for Churches and Students, 10-15 percent of every 1,000 students (out of 180 cases) engage in prostitution.

The IJM is a human rights organization that rescues victims of slavery, sexual exploitation and other forms of violent oppression.

Benjamin said that based on the cases he had handled, students even prostituted not only because they needed to pay for tuition. Others remain include financial independence, materialism and peer pressure where students feel the need to have what their friends have, he said.

Sofia's story

Sofia, who hails from Negros Occidental, was left in the care of her aunt when she was 12 years old after her father died and her mother abandoned her.

After graduating from high school, the 16-year-old lass entered Bacolod-Negros Occidental to Cebu to pursue a college degree. Little did she know that school fees in Cebu were expensive.

For three years, she did odd jobs—from housemaid to sales girl—so she could save enough money for her tuition. But the pay was not enough to even cover her basic needs.

She quit being a salesgirl and had been unemployed for a while. In April last year, a friend, who worked as a GRO, told her that their night club was looking for another GRO. Since work was hard to come by for a high school graduate, she took it.

"I didn't like it but I had no choice," Sofia cited.

The pay was good enough, and she can send her double to stay in the business. Since then, she had been to nine different clubs, where the tips ranged from P1,000 to P5,000 from her permanent "guests."

'Private' services

"We call our clients guests. A gathering of GROs is called a show up. I am one of them. Then the guests would choose who among the GROs they like," she said in Cebuano.

Aside from tips, she receives a fixed pay of P1,2P per hour from the club and gets not less than P1,800 per encounter for "private" services.

Sofia goes to school in the morning because her work starts from 7 p.m. and ends at 4 a.m.

Her income allows her to buy food, as well as pay for her board and lodging, and other school fees. She has enough money to send to her aunt in Negros Occidental, who doesn't have a clue on how she earns a living.

Sofia said she also spent on a new cellular phone, clothes and even shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) to keep her up all night.

Aside from other clients, Sofia is being pursued by her "boyfriend"—a 42-year-old Scotsman who paid her tuition this year.

Actually, transmitted diseases, including the incurable Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), don't scare her. She is more afraid of getting killed by her customers without any witnesses inside the hotel room doing it AIDS.

What matters to her is to finish her studies so she could become a top lawyer and command the respect she has always wanted.

The lure of fast bucks is one of the factors some students use to abandon quit school and make prostitution a career path.

Miles' story

One of them is 20-year-old Miles, who decided to drop out because she believes that prostitution is the easiest way to help her mother and three siblings, as well as provide for wants and needs.

"I can give my mother more money if I continue working as a sex worker. It's fast and more practical than going to school," Miles said in Cebuano.

She gets at least P1,000 per hour from her customers, who are mostly foreigners.

Unlike Sofia, Miles does not work in a club but stays home and waits for a text message from customers or others and what time they will meet.

She uses her earnings to buy new cellular phones, trendy clothes, food and makeup. "Sometimes, I can buy all I want, but I never took drugs," she said.

Asked if she was scared of catching the virus that causes AIDS, Miles said she was confident that she was healthy since she uses condoms for every sexual contact and has a regular checkup every three months.

Although she had no plans of going back to school, Miles acknowledged that her classes weren't for her. Eventually, she would have to get a degree so she can get a decent job.

Toni's story

A gay escort named Toni, a law arts student, confessed that many students are sex workers. "I don't think the government can do anything because it's not just me who's into it. There are a lot of us," he said.

Toni, 22, offers sexual service to homosexual foreigners and gets P1,500 to P 2,500 per client. "It was easy money," he said. He usually has two clients per night.

Toni said that because of his income, he was able to provide for his family and pay his tuition.

"We join during sites where most of the foreigners (usually old Caucasians and Americans) come to visit and meet us for sex," he said.

He was cautious, he said, because he is scared of getting AIDS. "We've been tested (with AIDS) last April and we're thankful we're negative," he said.

Toni had stopped going to school since he broke up with his boyfriend, a foreigner who paid for his tuition. Now that he has saved some money, he plans to go back to school and get a degree.

"If I couldn't finish college and get a good job, maybe I'll end up being an escort forever," Toni said.

Annabelle Magbanua, guidance counselor of the University of the Philippines High School, said the motivating factor for forced students to sell their bodies. "The end does not justify the means. But, I can't blame them (student prostitutes)," she said.

No information

The government has been working to prevent sexual exploitation of students through various agencies, but these do not have information on the number of prostituted students. The Department of Social Welfare and Development and the police interview only when there are complaints or suspicion of trafficking.

The City Health Office, on the other hand, doesn't give special attention to student-prostitutes. It merely conducts surveillance operations and holds periodic medical checkup on sex workers.

For Sofia, Toni and Miles, the only way to stop the flesh trade, especially among students, is to make education affordable. Unless they are able to get a degree and find decent jobs, they know they will have to stay in the game to survive.

HELPS. Toni and Sofia are among the students who are forced to get into the sex trade in order to pay their tuition and other needs.

Clarisse Gay Ursal is a third year mass communications student of the University of the Philippines Visayas Cebu College. She is one of the 76 students who participated in the Ist Inquirer Mass Rising for Visayas Journalism held in Cebu in September. This article is her workshop output.

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Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

Sweeping arrests in Basilan feared

List of attack suspects alarms bishop, Moro rebs

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Virtually half of an entire village was recommended charged in connection with the Oct. 18 attack that led to the killing of 19 soldiers in a Basilan town, prompting the province's bishop and the guerrilla group Moro Islamic Liberation Front to call for a review of a list of suspects prepared by the military.

Basilan Bishop Martin Jumoad said the MILF said the list was unbelievable. "Grave for Ddy (sic) End," Jumoad said in a phone interview.

Jumoad sounded shocked at the sheer number of people in the charge sheet because it exceeded the number of adult males in Barangay Cambug in Al-Barka town.

"The charge sheet recommended the filing of charges against at least 300 people, mostly uninvolved but residents of the village. Eight of those were members of the MILF.

Jumoad said it would be better for government to review the list and to conduct "good research."

The bishop said authorities should coordinate with village officials to prepare a more credible list of suspects. He said it appeared that the list was done in haste.

The MILF said that based on records from the Commission on Elections, Cambug has a total voting population of 4,004.

"Of the 4,004 voters, less than 300 are male," the rebel group said in a post on its website.

"Our authorities must be clear on who are the people that they are really going after," Jumoad said.

Alhaj Dalcapas, chair of the Barong Committee in Basilan, said the filing of practically all males in Cambug could result in massive human rights violations in Basilan.

"The issuance of arrest warrants without the benefit of an investigative mission may again result in massive arrests of innocent civilians in the area, thus resulting in another wave of human rights violations in the province," Dalcapas said.

Al-Barka Vice Mayor Sacnar Hassan agreed with Dalcapas.

"The number of persons to be arrested exceeded the (male) voting population of Cambug," Hassan said.

He said this could be a big problem. Hassan said the fact that the list contained "300 John Does" could justify indiscriminate arrests.

"They could have easily identified those allegedly involved. The problem with John Does is they can arrest anybody, including minors," Hassan said.

Lt. Col. Randolph Cabangbang, spokesperson of the military's Western Mindanao Command, said the unidentified men on the list did not refer to the male population of Barangay Cambug.

"They are the number of unnamed followers of (MILF commander) Dan Asnawi and Ubbo Sayyaf leader) Isnag Hiddal," he said. Julie Alipala and Allan Nawal, Inquirer Mindanao

GOING HOME

A farmer on his way home after a tough day at work hikes through one of the many strawberry fields in La Trinidad, Benguet, also known as the country's vegetable capital.

Cebu cargo with assault rifle parts seized

By Inova B. Sino Cruz
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—The Bureau of Customs in Cebu yesterday seized a shipment from California that was destined to the household items but yielded assault rifle parts and bullets.

Ronnie C. Mendoza, Cebu customs district collector, said he had issued a warrant of seizure and detention for the 40-foot container van shipped into Cebu early this month.

Mendoza said he had directed the shipment's consignee alive to yielded parts and accessories of M-14 and M-16 rifles and an ammunition accessories.

The shipment, worth about P3.3 million, arrived at the Cebu International Port on May 3 aboard the Cebu Trader, a vessel of the WPE Line. It was scheduled for release on Nov. 18.

Declared as household goods, the shipment was consigned to Renato R. Ramos of 1313 J. Rizal St., Barangay Banilad, Mandaue City, which turned out to be fictitious.

Searca to hold 45th yr rites

THE SOUTHEAST Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (Searca) will celebrate its 45th anniversary from Nov. 21 to 25 at the University of the Philippines in Los Baños (UPLB).

Searca is the center for regional cooperation in Southeast Asian Ministries of Education Organization (Seameo), of which the Philippines is a charter member.

Established in 1966, Searca is mandated to promote agricultural and rural development through research and development programs and other measures.

Dr. Rainer C. Barba will receive the Dioscoro L. Umali achievement award for agricultural development in universities that highlight the celebration.

Barba is a renowned plant scientist whose work revolutionized the mango industry, according to a statement quoting Gil C. Ingalagal Jr., Searca director. Barba, the statement said, will be the first Filipino to receive the award.

Launched in 2000, the Umali award was named after the late Dr. Dioscoro Umali, Searca's first director.

NEWSBRIEFS

■ GENERAL SANTOS CITY

Ship rams boat, kills fisherman

A PERSON was killed while six others were injured when a Manila-bound Superferry passenger ship rammed into a troubled fishing boat off Masinloc, Zambales, early yesterday.

Supt. Edgard Guanzon, chief of the police regional maritime unit in Central Mindanao, identified the fatality as Simonette Sandoval, 60, whose body was found two hours after the 1 a.m. collision.

"We saw the big vessel coming straight to our boat. But our engine cooked out so we were hit," said Ric Bulaoro, 28, one of the surviving fishermen.

Guanzon said Superferry could not be held liable for the accident because "under the rules, small vessels must always give way to bigger ones." Agustes Z. Zurbe, Inquirer Mindanao

■ COMPOSTELA VALLEY

Footbridge snaps, kills miner

A WOODEN footbridge in the mining area of Kinagking in Pantukan, Compostela Valley, snapped, killing one person and injuring five others.

Rhona Boja, Pantukan social welfare officer, said yesterday that the small-scale miners were crossing the footbridge in Purok Tinglarin in Barangay Kasanyangan Ilaya (a. Wednesday when the ropes holding the wooden planks together snapped.

The victims fell several meters into the river below the bridge, Boja said. She said the bridge had been declared unsafe and barriers were put there to prevent people from using it. The victims apparently ignored the warning, said Boja. Frinston Lim, Inquirer Mindanao

■ DAVAO DEL SUR

Rebels kill village watchman

SUSPECTED communist rebels shot dead the head of village watchmen in Barangay Mabanain in Magsaysay town in this province on Thursday, police said yesterday.

Senior Supt. Vladimir Custer Kahulugan, provincial police director, said Salvador Pendatun Sr. was near his home when attacked by a still unidentified band number of armed men around 7 p.m. Orlando B. Dacoy, Inquirer Mindanao

■ MARBATE

SAF Masbate camp attacked

COMMUNIST guerrillas attacked early Thursday a camp that housed at least 60 members of the Special Action Force (SAF) of the Philippine National Police in Barangay Lalagona in Mobo town in the province.

Senior Insp. Ranchavez Langalang, commanding officer of the SAF camp, said the attack came past midnight. The gunfight lasted at least 30 minutes although no casualty was reported on either side.

Jesse Caldito Sotto, Inquirer Southern Luzon

■ PAMPANGA CITY

Pilot dead in crop duster crash

A CROP DUSTER crashed here on its way to a pesticide spraying mission in a banana plantation, killing its pilot, authorities said.

Supt. Glenn Dimaano, spokesperson of the Clean and Green police, identified the pilot as Napoleon Ensis.

Dimaano quoted witnesses as saying they saw the plane nosedive into a banana plantation owned by Lapanday Foods Corp. shortly after takeoff. Frinston Lim, Inquirer Mindanao

P-Noy wants GMA treated with 'utmost respect,' says De Lima

By Christine O. Avendaño

PRESIDENT Aquino wants Hosp. Municipal Arroyo, being a former President, to be treated with "utmost respect," Justice Secretary Leila de Lima said this yesterday.

De Lima made the remark shortly before police officers were to serve the arrest warrant on Arroyo at St. Luke's Medical Center in Taguig city.

The President will also not object if Arroyo, who is afflicted with a bone ailment, seeks treatment at hospital across while her case, Arroyo, who is afflicted with a bone ailment, seeks treatment at hospital across while her case, land, subsidiary case is being heard, according to De Lima, citing his earlier conversation with Mr. Aquino who is in Indonesia for the 19th Asean summit.

Arroyo has been confined at the hospital since Tuesday night, when she made a failed attempt to leave the country.

"For as long as she stays in the hospital, or maybe at home, we will not insist on bringing her to any detention facility. But the moment she leaves the premises, then our law enforcers are mandated to arrest her and put her in an appropriate detention facility," De Lima said.

Policemen will secure the home or hospital where Arroyo is, said "exactly whether the round hours or not," the justice secretary said.

Family notified

Minister Security Asst. Rodolfo also said the Arroyo administration would not object if Arroyo asked to be "detained" in her home or in the hospital.

Rabasa said he notified the former President's son, Ginamin Jay Rep. Dinahuh "Dato" Arroyo is well as to Arroyo (R, Pilar Arts Police of Candida, Pangasinan province) immediately after the restriction he issued was issued.

"We've notified the family because we will accord due respect to the former President as may said ayo (since she a sick)," Rabasa told the Inquirer over the phone.

"Should the doctor [she wants to stay] in the hospital or at home, that will be considered. 20 cases we will get permission from the court, but we will not object. If that is requested, we will not oppose it," he said.

But the administration will not allow Arroyo to leave the country, Rabasa said, "If she goes to the airport, she will be arrested," he said.

'Most and academic'

At a Palace news conference, De Lima said the counsel for Arroyo's arrest had produced "most and academic" The future surrounding the temporary restraining order issued by the Supreme Court, which sought to stop the Department of Justice from implementing its watch-list order on Arroyo and her husband.

"Thus, Mr. Arroyo is considered to stay in the country and face the charges of electoral sabotage filed against her, bringing us closer to constructing the truth behind the controversies surrounding the 2007 elections," De Lima said, reading from a prepared statement.

She expressed confidence that the government would "exercise fairness and impartiality, and uphold every right that Mr. Arroyo, as an accused, is entitled to under the Constitution" throughout the judicial process.

"For a legal proceeding that has great implications not just to the integrity of the electoral system but also to the very principles of our nation's democracy, it is undoubtedly crucial and accountability pivotal, and that the Filipino people are finally given the justice they truly deserve," she said. With reports from Jhoni E. Pangan and Marlon Ramos

POLICEMEN stand guard at the main lobby entrance of St. Luke's Medical Center as an NBI sheriff serves the arrest warrant on the former President. CONTACTS

High court affirms TRO but GMA now barred due to arrest warrant

From page A1

down to serve an arrest warrant in an entirely different case, then [Arroyo] will have to contend with that.

"The arrest warrant will not take precedence."

Maintaining its 8-5 vote on the issue, the high court threw out this appeal of the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Office of the Solicitor General during the special full-court session called by Chief Justice Renato Corona.

The DOJ, represented by Solicitor General Jose Anselmo Cadiz, had asked the high court for the immediate lifting of the TRO.

Marquez said all 15 justices who took part in the previous en banc session maintained their vote on the dismissal of the travel ban on Arroyo.

"This is just a reiteration of the same arguments which the justices had in the first en banc session. The majority kept its arguments on the right to life and the constitutional presumption of innocence since a case has yet to be filed against [Arroyo]," Marquez said at a news briefing.

He said the tribunal also denied the request of Arroyo's lawyers Estelito Mendoza and Lorenzo Gorion to be allowed to argue before the full court session.

Joining Corona in the majority were Associate Justices Presbitero Velasco Jr., Arturo Brion, Diosdado Peralta, Lucas Bersamin, Roberto Abad, Martin Villarama Jr. and Jose Perez—all appointees of Arroyo.

Of the five dissenters, three are appointees of President Aquino—Associate Justices Teresita Leonardo-De Castro, Bienvenido Reyes and Estela Perlas-Bernabe.

Senior associate Justice Antonio Carpio and Associate Justice Jose Mendoza sided with the minority.

Summons for De Lima

Marquez said the tribunal had summoned Justice Secretary Leila de Lima to explain why she should not be held in contempt for her refusal to implement the TRO, which "the petition deemed as dismissed of the court."

"De Lima is directed to show cause and comply within a non-extendible period of 10 days why she should not be held in contempt of court and comply with the TRO," Marquez said.

Asked to explain the tribunal's decision, he said: "Apparently the court took into consideration the pronouncements made by [De Lima], and therefore the court thought that there may be disrespect on that point."

If found guilty of indirect contempt, De Lima may be ordered to pay a fine of not more than P30,000 or face imprisonment of up to six months, "or both," Marquez said, adding that the penalty "is left to the discretion of the court."

In a notice issued by clerk of court Enriqueta Vidal, the tribunal directed De Lima to explain why she failed to "immediately comply" with the TRO "by allowing the [Arroyos] to leave the country."

Marquez said the court ordered Ferdinand Tapucin, the lawyer of Arroyo's husband, Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, to submit a supplemental compliance of its earlier order for the couple to appear their legal representatives as part of the conditions to be met under the issuance of the TRO.

He said Tapucin had failed to include the email "received" in the portion of the special power of attorney that Mike Arroyo signed. "But just the same, the TRO stays in full force and effect," he said.

In another press conference, Marquez clarified that the issue "would not be on Doctor Tapucin's compliance... dated Nov. 16, as "not submitted."

By the same vote, the magistrates ruled that there was "no need to suspend the effectivity of the TRO," he said. "As far as this court is concerned, because the TRO stays in effect, then the issue is couple can leave...

"So I'm calling on our executive officials. The court has already in effect, reinstated its TRO. I hope that this [order] will be respected and complied with."

Long discussion

According to Marquez, the justices spent more than one hour to discuss the three pending petitions concerning the travel ban that De Lima had asked us to lift.

He said yesterday's deliberation lasted longer than the "unusually longer" en banc session that the court held on Tuesday.

As to De Lima's argument that the three conditions that the high court set before allowing Arroyo and her husband to leave the country were not enough to ensure their return, Marquez said the DOJ could seek other remedies.

"But those conditions can be satisfied. They can also be sought out by our officials in coordination with officials of the foreign country," he said.

Marquez also said the calls for Corona and Palmo to exhibit from the case because they had previously traveled directly under Arroyo "is a personal decision for the justices to make."

"As long as the justice can maintain his or her impartiality, then there is no reason for him or her to inhibit. In this case, since all of them participated, all 15 of them can maintain their respective impartiality," he said.

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Ad Congress boosts local economy, widens prospects

By James Calvino Sobrevega
Inquirer Southern Luzon

NAGA CITY—Only an hour past noon, taxi driver Edwin S. Ubiana had already earned enough for his "boundary," transporting delegates of the 22nd Philippine Advertising Congress from Naga to the Camarines Sur Watersports Complex (CWC), about 15 km away from the city, as the Ad Congress opened here this week.

Ordinarily, Ubiana would have had to ply the streets of Naga from morning till evening or wait for passengers needing to go to a far-off destination to earn the P800 "boundary," the daily rental drivers have to pay taxi operators.

But since delegates began arriving days before the Ad Congress opened on Wednesday, Ubiana said he has been earning good money.

The taxi driver was not the only one benefiting from the event.

"It's like a fiesta in Naga. You know, there are lots of people in the city based from the number of cars plying the streets," said Alex Francis Jaimne, the head of the city's Arts, Culture and Tourism Office.

INQUIRER.EDOW Ad Congress chair Sandy Prieto Romualdez (right) and keynote chair Maria Prieto (center) lead the keynote Group officers and employees in an entertainment number during lunch hosted for the keynote on the second day of the Ad Congress. The keynote gave away raffle prizes, including entrance rates and a free trip to France. Also in the photo are Tessa Prieto-Valdes and Paulo Prieto.

More people means more sales and income for businesses in the city, he said.

"In fact, the demand for gift tee products at the Naga City People's Mall is very high. The volume of people going there is also high," he said. The Naga City People's Mall is the city's public market.

Jaimne also said the four-day event was providing temporary employment for residents of the city, especially local college students producing souvenir items like bags fashioned out of waste bliss.

All Naga City hotels were also fully booked. "Some delegates (who could no longer find hotel rooms) even availed of home stays," he said.

More than the direct boost the event is giving the local economy, the Ad Congress has also widened the investment prospects of the city and neighboring areas, particularly with about a hundred companies and businesses participating in the trade exhibit at the Capitol grounds, which across the CWC, located in the town of Pili.

The exhibits under the provincial capitol grounds teem with people Grooping in from nearby Naga City and other towns to see and interact with company representatives.

Amid the hot weather, hundreds of residents here and visitors went to the trade fair on board free shuttle provided by the provincial government.

Dubbed as "TRADERS' BONANZA", the exhibit is part of the Ad Congress conducted from Oct. 16 to 19. Booths that showcase companies' services and products were set up near the CWC.

Among the participating companies were the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Viva Land, Smooth World, Subicon Commodities, and many others.

Each of the participating companies boasted state-of-the-art displays topped by giant screens from two of the country's leading television networks.

Ad Congress told TV's Big 3 not a crowd but crowd-pleasers

From page A1

respectively—for the first time stood side by side on one stage to share their thoughts on the future of television and media.

The three media giants not only showed similar beliefs on the need to keep up with changing technology but also in their confidence about the future of the broadcast industry even if there are only three major players competing for advertising revenue.

Certified No. 3

In fact, Lopez admitted to having changed his mind about his belief that a third major player would mean a shrinking advertising pie and diminished profits for television networks, noting that ABS-CBN's revenues have not fallen despite the entry of TV5.

Pangilinan, who spoke before Lopez, earlier said that GMA 7 and ABS-CBN "should worry about no because we are the certified No. 1."

However, he said he did not know which of the two other networks was No. 2, eliciting laughter from the audience.

"Just thinking being stuck in third place has made me extremely paranoid," Pangilinan said jokingly.

In response to a question from TV5 news executive Luchi Cruz-Valdez, Lopez said TV5 was a competitor "not to be taken for granted."

Lopez, Gozon and Pangilinan were given about 15 minutes each to make their presentation and another 30 minutes to answer questions from personalities from the rival networks—with GMA's Mike Enriquez grilling Pangilinan and ABS-CBN's Korina Sanchez posing questions to Gozon.

CAMSUR FUN RUN Ad Congress chair Sandy Prieto-Romualdez and Ad Congress board member Ricky Alegre lead runners at the start of the 10 Fun Run inside the CamSur Watersports Complex on Friday.

TV in digital age

In their speeches, the three CEOs presented their views on the role of television in the digital age where the development in technology has been unprecedented.

"In the next ad congress, which is two years from now, are still be talking about media revolutions caused by technologies that don't even exist today. Or not even imagined today," Lopez said.

He said that even if many think that the future of media is unknown, ABS-CBN would still know where to go because the motto "Service of the Filipino" is their guiding light.

Lopez said ABS-CBN, which celebrates its 60th anniversary next year, had connected to Filipino audiences all over the world through all kinds of media platforms.

"The gate to the privilege to know us starts more about their nature and their aspirations. And that is why we can make this assumption: The future of media may appear to be technological, but at its core, it will remain emotional," he said.

According to Lopez, ABS-CBN will have more digital offerings that are multisearch base of preferences, experiences, services and conveniences.

"We believe that technology will change everything, except the human emotion to crave for recognition, affirmation, connection and inspiration to be the best that they can be but still fulfillment, for family and for communities," he declared.

Defining moment

Gozon said television has reached its defining moment because of fast-evolving digital technology which has made for endless possibilities.

"Content made for television can now be seen in at least three streamings—the television itself, the computer and the mobile devices. It has also broken new ground in social networking, so that digital existence of the world can traverse all media seamlessly" he said.

Gozon said technological companies like Google and Apple recognize that the video viewing experience is at its best on a larger television screen, which he said has led to the aggressive development of gadgets (Gozon hopes) that allow for the streaming of video content.

He said even the television set had morphed and converged into computer and entertainment.

"As the World Wide Web is bursting at the seams, it will see entertainment, information and everything else in between. Social networking sites Facebook and Twitter, and search engines Google and Yahoo have become million-dollar game changers that simply blow our minds," Gozon said.

He said social TV is one of today's buzzwords where some viewers don't just sit back in couches and watch shows but let their friends know in real time what they are watching.

"Digital technology has given consumers more opportunity to control their lives. The viewers now have a say when and where to watch the shows that matter to them," he said.

Still the medium to beat

With television still the cheapest form of entertainment to some 94 percent of television households in the country, Gozon said it will remain the "medium to beat by many years to come if it continues to provide superior entertainment and remains the medium of the vast majority of Filipinos."

Pangilinan introduced a fictional 22-year-old Christine in his speech to drive home the point that the digital age is here to stay with the youth as the targeted market.

Pangilinan portrayed Christine as a young woman who wakes up hooked to her digital gadget and computer which are indispensable to her habits.

"So that's Christine, (raised) not to the past but the present and the future. That's our model today and our future," he said.

"Indeed, the Internet has changed the way we're thinking, changing the way we are, changing our habits," he said.

Pangilinan said that the rise of the success of a network is how it can empower and empower the lives of viewers.

He stressed that the duty of the media industry is to police standards to ensure that viewer would effect positive changes.

MMDWQMC Regular Update No. 2011-09
October 28, 2011

MEMBER AGENCIES

FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2011

East Zone (Manila Water)	West Zone (Maynilad Water)
Areas Covered: Part of City of Manila, Part of Quezon City, Mandaluyong City, Most part of Makati City, Pasig City, San Juan City, Marikina City, Taguig City and Municipality of Pateros	Areas Covered: West part of City of Manila, Part of Quezon City, Caloocan City, Malabon City, Navotas City, Valenzuela City, Muntinlupa City, Las Piñas City, Part of Makati City, Parañaque City and Pasay City
BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION	
4004*	No. of Samples Examined: 3624
4004	No. of Potable Samples: 3581
0	No. found to be unsatisfactory* 0
100%	Satisfactory Compliance: 100%
0.01 ppm	Residual Chlorine: 0.00 ppm

The PNSDW requires at least 0.5 ppm residual chlorine from the farthest point of the distribution system.

PHYSICAL & CHEMICAL EXAMINATION

Within PNSDW Standards	Taste, color, odor, turbidity, aluminum, chloroform, copper, hardness, residual chlorine, iron, manganese, pH, sodium, sulfates, TDS, zinc, conductivity, hydrogen sulfide, arsenic, barium, boron, cadmium, chromium (total), cyanide (total), fluoride, lead, mercury (total), alcohol, nitrates, nitrites, selenium, ammonia, and phenols	Within PNSDW Standards

NOTE: * - Philippine National Standards for Drinking Water requires that Total Coliform must not be detectable in any 100 ml sample. In case of large population where sufficient samples are examined, it must not be present in 95% of samples taken throughout any 12-month period. Taken from supplier sampling points.

Based on the above findings, the Committee pronounced that drinking water in the MWCI and MWSI distribution system was of SANITARY QUALITY with adequate residual chlorine.

EDUARDO C. ANADON, MD, MPH
Director IV
Chairman, Metro Manila Drinking Water Quality Monitoring Committee
(MMDWQMC)

Metro Water Is Safe

SPORTS
Editor Teddyboy S. Molmedoro
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Dichoso

BARAKO! Ball's Willie Miller tries to get a shot off Enrey Interbreso of Perron in last night's game at Smart Araneta Coliseum. ALDEN SMITH

Miranda lifts Petron; Tenorio boosts Aces

By Jane Navarro

WITH EVERYBODY else off, Ronnie Miranda figured out a way to take charge.

Miranda spearheaded Petron Blaze's comeback from behind 75-66 victory over Barako Bull last night in the PBA Philippine Cup at the Smart Araneta Coliseum.

Checking his first three attempts, Miranda rose to the occasion and finished with 21 points, including 10 in the fourth period, when the ranging Boosters shifted to high gear with a decisive 13-2 endgame foray.

"We couldn't get it going, so I made sure to be more aggressive on them," said Miranda after going 9 of 16 from the field, highlighted by four three-pointers.

LA Tenorio and Troy Rosario led 23 points each as Alaska won down Powerade, 121-111, in the other game that kept the Aces in contention for a playoff spot.

Mac Baronda added 22 for the Aces, who climbed to 2-7.

Top rookie pick JV Casio also put up solid, lasting figures of 20 points and 11 assists while fellow Smart Gilas teammate Marcio Lassiter had 20 points, as the Tigers fell to 3-7.

Lastly Espejo, reactivated after fully recovering from a fractured right hand, complemented Miranda's fine form with 15 points while Arwind Santos, Petron's double-double machine, had 13 points and 13 rebounds despite flubbing 12-of-16 3fg attempts.

"Our shooters were off," said Petron Blaze coach Ato Agustin. "Defense just stepped up by keeping their championship form."

The Boosters, who will have a week off, solidified their hold of third place with a fourth straight win, their seventh overall in 10 outings.

Rookie Chris Lutz's eight homering mired up again, fueling Aguinis to sideline his prized rookie after sweeping the Boosters with a 22-point performance over the Sun Of Shine Giants Pampanga recently.

The scores
Final Game
ALASKA (9) – Miranda 21, Tenorio 20, Espejo 15, Caguioa 13, Baronda 12, Reavis 9, Yeng 8, Ilagan 6, Ayaay 4, Cruz 0, Ayaay 0, Ilagan 0.
PETRON BLAZE (9) – Miranda 21, Tenorio 20, Espejo 15, Caguioa 13, Baronda 12, Reavis 9, Yeng 8, Ilagan 6, Ayaay 4, Cruz 0, Ayaay 0, Ilagan 0.
Quarterly: 25-25, 25-25, 25-25, 25-25, 25-25.
Halftime: 50-50, 50-50, 50-50, 50-50, 50-50.
Third Quarter
ALASKA (9) – Tenorio 20, Reavis 15, Baronda 12, Yeng 8, Ilagan 6, Ayaay 4, Cruz 0, Ayaay 0, Ilagan 0.
PETRON BLAZE (9) – Miranda 21, Tenorio 20, Espejo 15, Caguioa 13, Baronda 12, Reavis 9, Yeng 8, Ilagan 6, Ayaay 4, Cruz 0, Ayaay 0, Ilagan 0.
Quarterly: 25-25, 25-25, 25-25, 25-25, 25-25.
Halftime: 50-50, 50-50, 50-50, 50-50, 50-50.

Why track, swim bets failed

By Marc Anthony Reyes

I TAKE full responsibility.

That was the gist of the statement given by Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association president Go Teng Kok after his ramrod athletes suffered heavy losses in the ongoing 26th Southeast Asian Games.

Instead of concentrating on the swollen ego of his athletes, Go said he was sidetracked by politics and engaged officials of the Philippine Olympic Committee in court battles.

The youngsters among the 22 athletes the Patafa fielded in Indonesia were not ready for battle, and the old ones were mostly senile, he explained.

Only Mercedita Torres (long jump) and Rene Herrera (5,000-meter steeplechase) plucked gold medals as the Philippines posted a measly 2-0-5 gold-silver-bronze tally in athletics, where 43 golds were up for grabs.

"There's a transition of athletes, [involving] the young and the old," said Go. "But... I take the blame because I didn't give them my 100 percent [attention]. I got distracted by my quarrels with the POC."

Go was declined persona non grata and later expelled by the local Olympic body after he filed temporary restraining orders against POC officials over the leadership dispute in the Philippine Karatedo Federation.

Meanwhile, Philippine Aquatics Sports Association president Mark Joseph said he is certain this is not the first time the country's swimmers were home empty handed from the SEA Games.

Joseph said the gold drought also happened either in 2003 or 2000, and that the recent poor medal harvest, where Filipino swimmers managed only two silvers and five bronzes, is nothing new. Thirty-eight golds were disputed in swimming.

"This the first time; I think is [also] happened in '03," said Joseph.

He also said that the departure of Miguel Molina and the lack of gold-medal potentials from among the new members of the team contributed to the debacle.

Molina, who won a total of 11 gold medals in the biennial Games, retired early this year to pursue a college degree.

"We will instantly see search for new talents. There are many swimmers with Filipino blood in the wings," Joseph said.

Sweet 16 battles unfold; Archers, Bulldogs faves

By Jasmine W. Payo

LA SALLE and National University start their long climb to the top in the knockout Sweet 16 round of the Philippine Collegiate Championship League (PCCL) games today at the DECS Gym in Valenzuela City and in San Juan.

Despite admitting that they're still adjusting to a new style of play, the Archers remain favored over the University of Batangas Bulldogs in their 4 p.m. duel.

The Bulldogs, the other finished team in the double-header, battle the University of Northern Philippines Sharks at 2 p.m.

"We're trying to learn the system," forward Joshua Webb said of the Archers, who recently tapped Gee Abanilla as head coach and Joey Ubiña as consultant.

The veterans of the Bulldogs-Sharks duel will go up against Arts Rizal University, which also managed to reach the knockout battle will clash with the University of Santo Tomas on Monday.

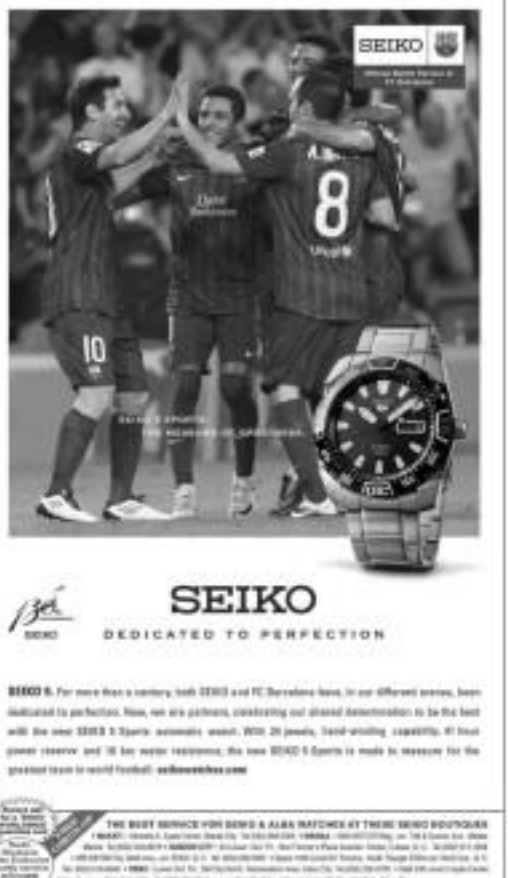
Both the Archers and the Bulldogs ranked fourth in their respective Metro Manila pools.

The Sharks ruled the North Central Luzon while the Brahmans dominated the South Luzon Rivalry.

Other squads waiting in the stepladder format are UAAP powerhouses De La Salle University and Adamson, NCAA heavyweights San Sebastian and Arellano, Mindanao big winner STI and Cebu Schools Athletic Foundation Inc. (Cesafi) finalists University of Cebu and Southwestern U.

Four-time UAAP champion Ateneo and Nu's no-back NCAA titlist San Beda clinched outright berths in the Final Four.

PCCL executive director Joe Lipa said the four Sweet 16 spot left could be disputed in the Visayas leg on Nov. 27 and 28.



US breeder paces NFGB 'Bakbakan'

BY TOP CHOICE
By Sanna Ana Porti

AMADEUS Consulted breeder Grady Malone moved closer to becoming the first foreigner to win the prestigious NFGB National Bakbakan 11-leg Derby by sharing the lead with 10 other participants Sunday at Smart Araneta Coliseum.

Malone, who is from Ohio, and his partner Marvel Jalao drove with their entry Dexter Gucci Accord 7 points. They used four more wins to bag the championship.

Among the other 7 pointers were Patrick Sencio's Gerry Santos, Allan Mario Cuenca Sta. Maria, Angelo Abid, Baby Boy Singson and Bey Eduardo.

Participants with 6.5 and 7 points qualify to the grand championship dance Dec. 5 at the Pasay City Cockpit, according to the National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders (NFGB) executive committee.

The other final rounds for those with 5, 5.5 and 6 points remain on the tarmac on Nov. 20 at Bulacan Inc. 1 at the Big Dome and Glen 2 at PCC.

"The new schedule is necessary to accommodate the huge number of qualifiers," said NFGB president Rizza Delmundo. In '94 of Nov. 19, we already have 4,000 cocks."

Other upcoming elimination rounds slate on Nov. 21 (NUEVAS), Nov. 24 (Iloilo Delcarmen, Laguna) and Nov. 25 (PCC).

Filipinos lay big, fat egg on Day 8

PH mired in sixth spot

By Roy Luarca in Palembang and Mwaong R. Castillo in Jakarta

PALEMBANG, Indonesia—The plodding, sputtering Team Philippines groaned to a halt on the 28th Southeast Asian Games here Friday.

Reduced to rummaging for gold medals the past few days, the Filipinos found none in all venues and appeared headed for its worst finish in the biennial meet.

Instead, they settled for two silver crumbs courtesy of the men's softvein team of brothers Jhonne and Joseph Arolla, Samuel Magali, Giovanni Marasoad and Mikell Matchoten and the men's badge relayed team of Francisco Alquitra and Gresone Montano Tan.

The soft venture yielded to the Indonesians, 6-1, in the finals at the Jakabaring Sport City here while the bridge players lost to the Thais late in the night in Jakarta.

After eight days of action, the Philippines could only draw 19 gold, 24 silver and 44 bronze medals and was stuck in sixth place in the 11-nation field due to being ranked by virtual champion Indonesia with a hoard of 117-90-81 as of 6 p.m. (7 p.m. in Manila).

Vietnam stayed at second with a 78-83-68 tally, with reigning titlist Thailand right behind with 67-84-75. Malaysia rang up 66-58-46 to barge into the canvas 5, with Singapore (39-43-53) followed by Hong Kong (6-9-39) spot with 32-39-60.

The women's soft tennis squad contributed a bronze, as did the men's sabre team. In Jakarta of individual gold medalist Wallen Morales, Giacomi's Nocom, trio Brando El and Edmon Mier, as well as the mixed wakeboard team of individual bronze medalist winner Samantha Bennedsen, Mark Griffin and Carlo Ada Torre.

Host country Efren "Bata" Reyes trounced Indonesian's Toyo Ho, 40-16, and Reynaldo Grandea thrashed Myanmar's Thada Aa, 40-18, to barge into the canvas 3, stallion semifinals and make up for dunded Marcos's 6-0 loss to indonesia's final blunders in the men's 8-ball singles quarterfinals at the Opus Persona hotel-Hall.

A rolling model is set-to night in Mayo Jaya ex-Rubio Ong is occupied that's after eight of 10 races in the Optimist class.

In Jakarta, the Philippine men's team defeated the Malaysians' challenge to prevail, 105-74, over as the cagebelles yielded a devastating 75-75 decision in overtime to the reigning champion Thais at the Senayan arena. (See story below).

There were more debacles for team Philippines on other fronts as Rizalino Flaminiano and Jeanette Villaro wound up sixth and eighth and Jose Flores drift to their respective qualifying rounds in sport climbing's speed event.

Pinglabillon Nestor Colonia landed fourth in the 56 kg class with a scrubbed 208 kg in snatch and clean and jerk, way off the winning 286 kg total of Vietnam's Tran Le Quoc Toan Hu.

In wushu, campers Bel Thomson Quinney Gayan finished ninth.

A brighter Saturday looms as the Blu Boys battle the Indonesians for the baseball gold and the men's and women's softball teams battle their Indonesian counterparts in the finals.

Boxing could give Team Philippines a lift with four finalists in 46-kg Ezzi Appiel, Jonic Gabuco, Josie Gabuco and Dennis Galvan.

Seeking berths in the finals are Junior Garnes champion Rey Saludar and Charlie Suarez.

Boyet and Grandea will contin-

CHRIS Tiu scores on a drive during Friday's game against Malaysia. The heavily favored Filipinos prevailed, 103-74.

Heartbreaker for cagebelles; men a win from crown

By Mwaong R. Castillo

SELAYAN GADING, Jakarta—The undefeated Philippine women's basketball team played like champions and crowned within 1.5 seconds of Southeast Asian Games history—only to come to grief in the end.

The duo at the Games' first ever ban. kerball golden crumble vanished after the Filipinas failed to cling to a three-point lead in regulation and slumped a heartbreaker to Thailand in overtime, 73-75, in semis—at here...for the silver medal.

Later, the men's team broke many from Malaysia with a result, running five in the third period for a 103-74 win that put them in the gold-medal match on Sunday against either Thailand or Indonesia at the 60th Asiad bronze here.

The Filipinas were dragged into a nip-and-tuck back game for the first time in four matches in the first half before pulling away off fastbreaks in the third period.

"I thought the first half was good for us—we were tested," said men's coach Norman Black.

After showing up the taller Thais all game long, the Filipinas rained one critical step and allowed the enemy to forge concussion at 64-all. A three-pointer by Jeruhan Jeuthasan from the beacon.

The Filipinas then injured into a spate of errors and bungled three free throws in extra time as Thailand regained regional supremacy.

The Thais can clasp its final game and still reach the gold from the Filipinas due to the minuses over the other side.

"There were breaks of the game and we cannot do anything about them now," said assistant coach Haydee Ong, who coached her devastated players after the game. "We tried but fell just short."

Thailand closes out its schedule against Myanmar and is heavily favored against the Burmese Saturday.

The loss is the bitterest for the Philippines in the sport. After cruising on 11-point deficit in the first half, the Filipinas moved ahead, 64-61, three down to 13.7 seconds in the extra. Aneyi Lim threw off the final foul of 64-to-4 Thai center Rumeso Namsawad.

The Thais actually had two more possessions after that and they missed the first with Aneyi coming the rebound only with play to be stopped with 1.5 ticks left.

Thinking she was fouled and awaited be awarded charities, Aneyi and the rest of the team exhausted is up in earnest exam-

See referee Donald Quinn asked the Filipinas forward had travelled and awarded possession to the Thais.

ITF tilt: Thais press on

By Marc Anthony Reyes

TEAM mod Lalubla Kunakhorn of Thailand and Japan's Yurina Inushima sickbeared their respective bun to set up a semifinal duel, runs on two Chinese netters try to eliminate each other in the ICTSI-ITF Women's Circuit Week 2 at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Kunakhorn overwhelmed Senior Chan Peng-yau of Hong Kong, 6-1, 6-1, while the seventh-ranked Inushima got past Chinese Taipei's Juan Ting-chi, who entered the tournament after losing the first set, 3-7.

"I hope to sustain my performance because my next opponents will be stronger," said the Thai, who reached last week's semifinals.

Second seed Zhao Yijing overcame compatriot Yang Xi, 6-2, 7-6 (7-4), to set up a battle with Gao Lei, who sustained yet another comparative blow, 36, 1-6, 6-3, 6-4.

An all-Thai finale was forged in the doubles as Kunakhorn and last week's singles champion Nungnapa Piyawat, and the pair of Napatsakorn Sankaew and Veeraya Wongsirasakhai bundled their respective assignments.

Kunakhorn and Piyawat bested Kocram Chai Ichon and Rim Ki-young, 7-5 (5), 6-2, while Sankaew and Wongsirasakhai defeated the other Korean pair of Kwon Seung Hyechon and Han Hee-Seung, 6-4, 2-6, 7-6 (8-6).

Feliciano hogs spotlight

SACHA Feliciano tops the Petron Formula SL Novice title

SACHA Feliciano capped her dominance of the Petron SL Novice division in the 2011 Petron Karting Series with another victory in the final leg at the Clark International Speedway on Pampanga recently.

Starting the race from the second row, the 17-year-old Beacon Academy student positioned another brilliant performance to take the lead going into the last three laps en route to the title.

The win boosted Feliciano's points total to 410.5 for the season, tied with second-placer Sandeleng, the final race's winner of poor tie-to. Feliciano bung-in take the title over Basil Escalante and Jan Alonsanan, who wound up with 399 and 389 points, respectively.

Feliciano also rallied to win in the same crash last September, coming back the challenge of Tonyo Cattel, Joseph Dyando Boje, Eduardo and Monteverde.

Feliciano dedicated her victory to her family, mentor Edgar Dy-Liacco and supporters Vincent Gonzales and Nino Hernandez.

"I couldn't have done it without them," she said.

Dy-Liacco was all praises for her team, saluting he dedicated as "a phenomenal karter."

"She has discipline, focus, and it's a relentless fighter behind the wheel," he said.

Feliciano plans to move up to the ROK 125 next year. "It will be very tough," she said. GOMEZ Egan

Seminar on sports injury Nov. 26 at Metro Club Makati

METRO Club in Makati will again be the venue for the last sports science seminar of the year hosted by LAN Sports & Events.

The seminar will cover sports injury management, treatment and rehabilitation.

Fifteen topics covered in the seminar include new updates on sports injury management, game situation and inside injury management and treatment, head injury and hydration, and rehabilitation and recovery from sports injuries.

Dr. Jose Raul Canlas and Dr. Randy Melo (Sports Medicine Orthopedic), Mary Grace Anthistic Training and Sports Medicine) and Anja Calagoan (Sports Physical Therapist and the resource speakers.

For inquiries, call 404-0952 or 501-0240. Registration fee is P1,250. The seminar is supported by Gatorade, Protein and ATTapat.

Pool golden girl wants to help ailing pa

By Rocaki Trinidad

PALEMBANG, Indonesia—The biggest Thai gin ever dumped on tiny Johanna Fidelis, the hapless fair Filipina competing here.

Nothing much was said about Fidelis after she bent before Amanda Rahmawati in the 9-Ball pool gold medal in the 26th SEA Games.

There was also scant attention to the papers after the upset last Sunday.

Fidelis, 26, is the lead candidate to win the delegation's golden girl. Its first double-gold medalist was Thai.

In the finals on Thursday, all eyes were on Amit, who crossed to stardom after topping the 2009 World Women's 10-Ball championship in Manila.

Fidelis had stayed in Amit's shadow through the years, even in their record-tying international rubber.

"She's the real thing, going gung-ho [ops, sorry, really good]," Amit said with no qualms when bowing to Fidelis.

In a race short of seasoned and competitive, Fidelis aired the routine with impeccable pocketing and solid control of the cue ball.

How did she finally find her touch after no co-international competition?

Fidelis could only stare blankly. Where does her father work?

"He's not at home," she said.

They flew off through the promise of her mother, a retired school teacher.

How would she spend Sea's winnings here, where she has been assured of a P200,000 incentive for her twin golds.

"Maybe we could spend it for my father," she said.

The father, a pool table owner in Zamboanga, also taught her the nuts and bolts of the game, her boon stitches with cancer.

It's cancer of the throat, fourth stage, and the very word, Fidelis, who hoped her victory would lend a piece of joy to her father.

IRIS RAMOS: Throw-ball thing

BMX aces axed; gold hopes lost

By Ray Luarca

PALEMBANG, Indonesia—Already screwing for golds, Team Philippines' bid for two more vaulted Friday following the disqualification of highly touted BMX riders Alexis Maryssa and Daniel Patrick Marcelino from the 26th Southeast Asian Games.

The reason? They carry ECI Kamoco buttons on sweaters.

Philsylvia president Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino, bemoaned that disqualification from Friday's events because it was only handed down during the team managers' meeting Thursday night.

"They were already on the entry list, added Tolentino. "Para akong pinag-isa [I was dumbfounded]. We could have been a great source in play for my country."

The 24-year-old Maryssa, once ranked ninth in the UCI Elite Pro Tour, said "it sucks that I could not represent the Philippines because I am really looking forward in competing in the SEA Games. It would have been a great honor to play for my country."

The 24-year-old Marcelino, a two-time silver medalist in the World BMX championships, was equally disappointed.

"The spirit of [the] Games is for the best to compete but they are not allowing the best to participate," added Bambol who won also a silver from No. 1 pin on the US circuit.

Apart from their UCI licenses, cycling team manager Ed Mangosan said the dual dishonships of Maryssa and Marcelino were also questioned by Thailand and Malaysia.

Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco also expressed displeasure over the disqualification as the BMX riders reportedly rarely did well during the trial race on Thursday.

A POUND Knights between Juan Manuel Marquez (left) and Manny Pacquiao won't provide anything new, says Oscar De La Hoya.

De La Hoya wants Manny-Floyd tiff

By Francis TJ. Ochoa

THE CLAMOR for Manny Pacquiao to **start seriously pushing his pressure to arrange** what could be the biggest fight ever continues to ascend.

Former Pacquiao victim Oscar De La Hoya is hoping Pacquiao convinces Top Rank chief Bob Arum to pursue a match against undefeated superstar Floyd Mayweather Jr.

"The fight that has to be made is Mayweather against Pacquiao," said the boxers supporter also known as Golden Boy. "We want the fight. Golden Boy wants the fight. Mayweather wants the fight.

"I know for a fact that Pacquiao wants the fight," added De La Hoya, who spoke to Philippine reporters at the Wild Card gym Saturday in Los Angeles.

Pacquiao could earn for the lucrative encounter $100 million in guaranteed purse, pay-per-view shares and a slice of the ticket sales in a bout with Mayweather.

De La Hoya said he is disappointed that Arum, who promotes Pacquiao, is going after Juan Manuel Marquez to finish a definitive rematch in a compelling rivalry that has a lot of it's own still left unsettled.

The latest Pacquiao's majority decision victory over Marquez to clinch WBO welterweight championship bout featured the two Latinos.

De La Hoya, however, feels that a fourth fight with Marquez would only anything for Team Pacquiao, it will only open more questions given the fight history between the two rivals.

"What for?" De La Hoya said. "MGB [just see the same fight."

Which makes Pacquiao-Mayweather the right choice, said De La Hoya.

"The one that doesn't want the fight is Bob Arum," De La Hoya said. "He's the one who doesn't want the fight. For whatever reasons I have no idea."

Talking to ESPN, De La Hoya said: "It would be very unfortunate if that fight could not be made because of Bob Arum."

"The fans are the ones who speak in a big way," De La Hoya added in the ESPN interview. "They've been asking for this fight for a very long time. Look, Manny Pacquiao is the champion of the people and the people are asking for this fight so let's make it happen."

So gets chess bid going, trips Myanmar rival

By Ray Luarca

PALEMBANG, Indonesia—Top Filipino hope Grandmaster Wesley So made an auspicious debut in the Southeast Asian Games, researching Felo Morey Ryan Lee Hoang of Myanmar in the men's standard chess competition at the Sriwijaya Indoor Hall here.

The 18-year-old So, one of the favorites in the event along with the Vietnamese Oki, will square off with Malaysian International Master Amirul Amir Lim in the second round. Lim bowed to Vietnamese GM Cao Sang. Indonesian GM Susanto Megaranto also won his first match against Thai FM Tosapon pulpradit Wisanee.

In men's rapid play, GM Oliver Barbosa outfitted his choice with Vietnamese GM Nguyen Ngoc Truong to forge a three-way tie for the lead.

Barbosa, Nguyen and another Vietnamese, GM Le Quang Liem, have 2.5 points each in three outings. Vietnam GM Ngoc Truong Sanh, who split the point with Le in the second round, got swatted by Malaysian IM Mas Shahrul Ismail and remained at 2.5 points. Indonesian IM Rossanto also split the point.

In women's rapid competition, WIM Catherine Perena subdued Miss Haniyo Lenie of Myanmar, compensating for the loss of WFM Cherry Ann Mijia to Vietnamese WGM Hoang Thi Bao Thuoc.

Perena, who teamed up with Barbosa for the silver medal in the mixed pair competition, climbed to 2.5 points after three rounds, the same total posted by Hoang and Vietnamese WGM Pham Le Thao Nguyen.

Mijia has 1.5 points in a tie for 40th and 46th with Indonesian WIM Irine Chintia Monica.

Thus far, the Filipino chessers have two silvers, the other contributed by GM John Paul Gomez in blindfold play.

DAZE: Peach will be vie endeering against Ramon Alcano.

Alcano, Peach face off as 'big-time' resumes

By Marc Anthony Reyes

WITH the ninth-fevering him, Filipino World World and 6-ball champion Peraem "Volcano" Alcano duelies with fellow world champion Dustl Peach of Great Britain in the eventual of the Philippine Rightful Billiards Since 08 [a-ten tonight at the Pagcor Airport Casino in Parañaque City.

As of yesterday, Alcano (+1.1 favorite against Peach (+2.1), according to the official Sports betting Mega Sports World which reviewed the wagers placed on the two pillars of world pool.

Alcano will try to get back at Peach, who lost him in the 2008 International Pool Tour (IPT) in Las Vegas, and in the 2007 World Pool Championship in Manila.

"I'm ready for Dustl. It's going to be a great performance on Sunday," said the 39-year-old Alcano who is known to his soft break and laid-back demeanor at the pool table. Alcano defeated Dutch during the 2007 World 9-ball championships in the United Arab Emirates.

Peach, a native of Guildford, West Yorkshire, England, said the duel, winner's break, feature makes it "anybody's ball game."

The winner will claim $5,000 while the loser gets $2,500.

The PBR Pace Off is a joint undertaking of Mega Sports World and BILLIARD Corp., and organized in cooperation with Airport Casino Filipino, Crown Board Games, Iskuna Amplifiers, Monte Thriller Systems, Molnlycke Life Oil, Diamond Billiard table, Hyper Sports Bar Ultra, Golden Leaf, Regie Promotions and the Billiards Managers and Players Association of the Philippines.

The match will be aired live over Solar Sports, Sky Cable and 9/10 Destiny Channel 34 and through internet via live streaming at www.worldbilliards.com.ph, www.megasportsworld.com, and www.philippinebilliardsfederation.com.

Is boxing moral?

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Mejia

THE LIST: Fr. Tim, owner of the Sun-Lost mercenary who recommended the auto-pension system (even before anyone but myself knew what the president is for), a best remembered for his advocacy against boxing, a violent and cruel sport whose time came it to retire.

While still a student working for a doctoral degree in Chicago, he had written a paper in Moral Theology condemning the sport of boxing, citing boxing's immorality.

According to Fr. Bernie, he was could be saving in his genes in millions or even billions of defeated years that have passed since the time Sanyelon's Genesis in Semitic Hebrew Pentateuch [the Hebrew Bible] 12 early writers—Yahwist [J], Elohist [E], Priestly [P] and Deuteronomist [D]—were to come to the Philippines translated by Father Boxing Explanation (PBE) course on a computer-based multimedia device.

Boxing used to be my favorite sport. But in recent years, I walked away from it on moral and medical grounds. On moral grounds, I explained that I've had enough of shoved and sticky encounters and boxing's ugly culture of gross immoralism and unjust decisions. Besides, the boxers, mostly the uneducated ones, were being exploited and I wanted no part of it.

On the other hand, I am continuing my boxing because I respect the people who train it. They care about their boxers and ensure the safety of the young men and women under their wings. And, most importantly, there are no grossly evil ruinating purposes and objectives in their sport.

Honeymoonlight great Sandoval Ani Boxing who chief of State ministry recently at age 67, made the same pro-abolition-boxing-ban boxing career cut that he had showed elusively and his speech showed, undiscovering once more the brutality of the sport.

An early rival of heavyweight legend Muhammad Ali, Virgilio Hughes Ali, Filipino-American boxer, retire in New York City's historic Madison Square Garden and went at the Antonio Cabinero in Cubao.

In their third and last fight here on Aug. 8, 1975, none knows undefeatedly as the "Thrilla in Manila," both fighters engaged in a fight to the finish that still is long-remembered in boxing history.

Ali successfully defended his heavyweight title, stopping the aggressive but terribly underrated Frazier in the 14th round when the boxer challenger was held back by his corner's trainer Eddie Futch because his mind was unable to say. Ali himself was too exhausted and confounded whether to go for the 15th count, assuming his corners obstructing in his corner stool.

"They should have both retired after the Manila fight," said noted boxing writer Ed Schuyler Jr. after that classic bout. "They left every bit of talent they had in the ring that day."

In later years, Ali, widely regarded as "The Greatest," fell victim to Parkinson's syndrome. Ali now moved slowly, almost deliberately," once wrote famous American TV correspondent and controversial journalist Howard Cosell in his best-selling book "I Never Played the Game."

Once a symphony of metaphors and rhymes, Ali's speech was now thick, and he spoke in halt-complete of whispered traps. Cosell commented, "Was many blows to the head and body had transformed [him] into somebody I no longer knew, and so she horrible feelings were there, chipping away at my innocence with boxing."

Smart age-group taekwondo tilt up

FUTURE stars of Philippine taekwondo—some as young as four years old—arrive their stuff on Nov. 19 and 20 in the 2011 Smart National Age-Group Championships at the Muoy Aquino Stadium.

Around 1,000 youngsters from all over the country will vie for honors in two divisions—poomsae and sparring [14 to 16 years old] and grade school divisions and girls 11 below).

According to organizing committee chair Sung Choo Hong, the event showcases the young talents in the sport.

Taekwondo has been one of the country's major sources of medal in international competitions like the ongoing Southeast Asian Games in Indonesia, the Asian Games and the Olympic Games.

The age-group competition is supported by the Philippine Sports Commission, Smart Communications, MVP Sports Foundation, PLDT and Globe.

The two-day event kicks off at 9 a.m.

THE SMART tournament hopes to find future champions.

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Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

New leader takes over car theft group

Youngest Dominguez brother at helm; 3 gang members fall in raid

By Nancy C. Carvajal

WITH suspected car theft gang leaders Raymond and Roger Domingo now detained at the Quezon City Jail Annex in Bicutan, Taguig City, their youngest brother Ryan now looms as the head of group, a police official said.

Senior Supt. Ferdinand Villanueva, chief of the Quezon City Police District (QCPD) anti-carnap unit (Tauru) made the disclosure following the arrest of three suspected members of the group and the recovery of two stolen sport utility vehicles in a raid on their safe house in Bulacan province the other day.

Villanueva named the arrested suspects as Antonio Garcia, 40, Romulo Sevilla, 22, and Ariel Torres, 47, all residents of Calumpit, Bulacan.

The suspects were traced inside a compound located in Purok 11, Barangay Kaingin 1 owned by one Carol Mateo, in joint operations conducted by Tauru, the Highway Patrol Group and the Calumpit Municipal police.

Torres told investigators that the car robbery group is now headed by Ryan, under the direction of his jailed brothers Raymond and Roger.

The suspect also named Rolando Tolibas, the alleged gunman of the group, as Ryan's assistant.

During the police operations, agents also recovered a stolen Ford Everest (PBQ-645) and a Mitsubishi L-300 van (UKG-770) and hundreds of dismantled parts of suspected stolen vehicles.

Charges filed

Villanueva said car robbery and illegal dismantling of vehicles charges had been filed on Wednesday against Garcia, Sevilla and Torres.

Included in the charge sheet were Ryan, Tolibas and Mateo.

SPO1 Pio Torrecampo, of the QCPD anticarnap unit, said that based on their investigation, Garcia has a pending car robbery case in a Quezon City court and is temporarily out on bail.

He added that they stumbled into the group's safe house and storage area while looking for another stolen Ford Everest (DBT838) owned by a Hanzie Sanzerros.

The SUV was considered stolen when a certain Ryan Bautista or Jhun Henares who rented the van on Oct. 31 failed to return the vehicle, Torrecampo said.

The suspects were caught trying to unlock a different plate number (RDW 667) to the stolen Ford Everest with the original plate (PBQ-645).

Another Ford Explorer owned by one Reylen Lacierda, a carjack victim, was also found in the compound.

Torrecampo also found inside the L-300 van an Explorer engine block, found to be registered to a Cirilo Cuenca.

Based on the statements of one of the arrested suspects, Ryan had paid P130,000 to alter the engine chassis of the Explorer, Torrecampo added.

Maid's attempt to steal actor-councilor's vault foiled

By Nancy C. Carvajal

A HOUSEMAID of actor and Quezon City Councilor Alfred Vargas was arrested while in a taxi cab with a small vault allegedly stolen from the victim's house on Thursday night.

Senior Insp. Roberto Razon, chief of the investigation section of Quezon City Police District's (QCPD) Station 6, identified the suspect as Cherlin Mabinay, 38, of Leyte province.

Razon said Mabinay, who had been employed by Vargas since September, had confessed to the crime and has been charged with qualified theft in the office of the city prosecutor, with no bail recommended.

The police official said Mabinay had admitted she was a member of a syndicate victimizing rich families.

The suspect also pointed to other members of the group who had convinced her to steal the vault from Vargas' house on 7 Viewtime Street, Don Antonio Heights in Barangay Holy Spirit.

Razon said the vault contained land titles, pieces of jewelry and cash.

Police said Mabinay, who had been employed by Vargas since September, had confessed to the crime and has been charged with qualified theft in the office of the city prosecutor, with no bail recommended.

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VARGAS

Police said Mabinay claimed she received a call from a man telling her that her employer was hurt in a vehicular accident and needed money and that she had to bring the vault containing cash to a designated area.

The timely arrival of the actor's personal assistant, Helen Laguna, prevented Mabinay from running away with her loot.

Upon discovering the theft, Laguna immediately alerted the subdivision's security guards to stop the cab from leaving the area.

The personal assistant, a niece of the suspect, said it was she who had recommended Mabinay for the post, Razon said.

The police official said Mabinay had asked for forgiveness from the actor-politician.

The maid also told investigators she wanted to use the money to purchase a tricycle to help her cash-strapped family.

Prelim probe on Ramgen's absent sis reset to Nov. 25

By Jeannette I. Andrade

THE IMBAÑAQUE City prosecutor's office yesterday gave Ramona Ilandan, one of two alleged masterminds in the Oct. 28 killing of her elder sibling Ramgen and the wounding of his girlfriend Janelle Manaloto, another chance to submit her counter-affidavit in which she is expected to deny the allegations against her.

Imbañaque City Assistant Prosecutor Leah Roma reset the preliminary investigation to Nov. 25. This would determine whether Ramona should be indicted for murder and frustrated murder, after Roma injured a security guard who was also a suspect in the case.

Roma did not receive the document submitted by Ramona on her alleged sister's behalf since Ramona, who has been linked to the case along with her brother RJ and five others, is expected to be present.

Ramona's whereabouts remain unknown after she left the country for Turkey on Nov. 4, saying the following day for an unknown destination.

Husband and wife team trains teachers for free

By Rina Camangyan

MOTIVATED by a passion for education, this husband-and-wife tandem left their corporate day jobs to start up a company providing personality and professional enhancement services.

Educhil Professional Services and Events Management, run by Johann Caplan and Iya Rilla Caplan, started in 2008 as a company offering tutorial services. It has since developed into a provider of training programs, workshops and seminars on professional and personality development.

This year, through the help of clients and sponsors, Educhil has begun offering monthly seminars, mostly free, to teachers, shop talk robbed teachers for free, making a difference from other training centers.

A college lecturer and speaker, on social speaker, Johann said many documentaries on issues haunting the public school system like dirty toilets or a human resources manager for a Netherlands-based firm, said the lack of resources was one hurdle in the teachers' pursuit to empower themselves.

He said her students, a former public school teacher, wanted to offer my mentored studies but wasn't able to do so because of lack of funds. "I went through the experience of selling native sausages and rice cakes to earn extra income," she recalled.

The couple believe that helping public school teachers build confidence in themselves will not only result in their professional growth and financial success, but also contribute to the improvement of the entire education system.

In Educhil's "From Conscious to Confident" presentation skills seminar held on Oct. 22, for example, participants were given exercises to help them express their personal and career goals while teaching them practical tips on how to be better public speakers.

In one activity, the participants were asked to fill out a "confidence-ometer," where they were supposed to complete the sentence, "I am entitled to..."

Jacqueline Sunga, a Hyatt teacher from Quirino High School, could not be more direct. She said she was entitled to be the future principal of Bels school.

Retired employee Monina Mesia, a volunteer teacher in children in the slums of Mid-

JUDGE Caplan gives tips on how teachers can become better public speakers.

QUIRINO High School's Jacqueline Sunga (left) is Educhil's presentation skills seminar with Johann and Iya Caplan.

On her first time, Gloria Mae Aragon of Signal Village National High School said the seminar was "very helpful. I gained additional knowledge and insight to improve my presentation skills."

Johann said they opened the seminar to the wider educational program through their relatives, friends and barangay officials.

They also have a website and accounts on social networks such as Twitter and Facebook.

Some of the teacher-participants, like Sunga, found out about Educhil by searching for free seminars on the Internet.

The couple have big plans for Cebu City, on the other hand, said she was looking forward to a political career which would give her more opportunity to serve her community.

Johann gave tips on how to do effective presentations, such as using the appropriate word and body language.

Gomez and Bacto-ano interjected as he demonstrated how the seminar meets expectations and body.

Most of the participants turned in positive feedbacks about the seminar.

On her feedback form, Gloria Ann Fragasso

US plan to put up Marine base in Australia irritates China

DARWIN, AUSTRALIA—Fresh from announcing an expanded US military presence in Australia, a plan that has angered China, President Barack Obama came to this remote northern town that will be the base of operations and told US and Australian troops it is "the perfect place."

"We are deepening our alliance and this is the perfect place to do it," said Obama, speaking in a stormy air force hangar in about 2,000 people, including many troops in green camouflage uniforms but with US flag insignias subtly among them. "This region has some of the busiest sea lanes in the world."

On Wednesday, Obama announced that the United States planned to deploy 2,500 Marines in Australia in shore up alliances in Asia, but the move prompted a sharp response from Beijing, which accused Obama of escalating military tensions in the region.

The agreement with Australia amounts to the first long-term expansion of the US military's presence in the Pacific since the end of the Vietnam War. It comes despite budget cuts being the Pentagon and an increasingly assorted, reaction from Chinese leaders, who have argued that the United States is seeking to encircle China militarily and economically.

"It may not be quite appropriate to intensify and expand military alliances and may not be in the interest of countries within this region," Liu Weimin, a Foreign Ministry spokesperson, said in response to the announcement by Obama and Prime Minister John Gillard of Australia.

In an address to the Australian Parliament on Thursday morning, Obama said he had "made a deliberate and strategic decision—as a Pacific nation, the United States will play a larger and long-term role in shaping this region and its future."

The president said the moves were not intended to isolate China, but they were an unmistakable sign that the United States had grown weary of its connections.

China has increased heavily in military modernization and has begun to deploy long-range aircraft and a more able deep-sea naval force, and it has asserted territorial claims to disputed islands that would give it broad sway over oil and gas rights in the East and South China Seas.

While the new military commitment is relatively modest, Obama has promised it as the cornerstone of a strategy to refocus more directly the challenges posed by China's rapid advance as an economic and military power. He has also made some progress in creating a new Pacific free-trade zone that would give America's free-market allies in the region some trading privileges that do not immediately extend to China.

Obama described the deployment as responding to the wishes of democratic allies in the region, from Japan to India. Some allies have expressed concerns that the United States, facing war fatigue and a shuttered economy, will cede its leadership role to China.

New York Times News Service

ACTRESS Demi Moore (left) and actor Ashton Kutcher in photo taken on Nov. 4, 2010.

Moore, Kutcher call it quits after 6 years

LOS ANGELES—Film and television stars Demi Moore and Ashton Kutcher said on Thursday they are ending their marriage after six years, breaking up one of the most widely followed May-December romances Hollywood has seen.

The marriage between Moore, 49, and Kutcher 33, has been in trouble since late September when a San Diego woman went public about a brief affair she had with Kutcher, a star on CBS television comedy "Two and a Half Men," during a weekend of partying in the southern California city.

"It is with great sadness and a heavy heart that I have decided to end my six-year marriage to Ashton. As a woman, a mother and a wife there are certain values and vows that I hold sacred, and it is in this spirit that I have chosen to move forward with my life," Moore said in a statement.

The star of films such as "Ghost," "G.I. Jane" and "Indecent Proposal" also asked for "compassion and privacy" and said it was a "trying time for me and my family."

Kutcher released her statement first and Kutcher quickly followed on Twitter where both were early converts to the social network, posting messages and pictures about their personal lives. Ashton has more than eight million followers and Moore has more than four million.

Moore was married twice previously, the first time to singer Freddy Moore and the second to film star Bruce Willis, with whom she has three children. They divorced in 2000. *Reuters*

Wall Street protesters march into 3rd month

NEW YORK—Occupy Wall Street marched into its third month on Friday after protests in several US cities and parts of Europe, with 200 arrests and clashes with police in the movement's New York epicenter.

Thousands of activists protesting against alleged rampant and greed marched across New York's Brooklyn Bridge on Thursday in a show of force after being evicted from their home base in a Manhattan park earlier this week.

The protests were part of a "Global Day of Action" to mark the movement's two-month anniversary, with hundreds of demonstrations planned across the country to protest against the "one percent" of politicians and business elites.

Police evicted protesters in Los Angeles and Dallas, arresting dozens of people in the latest crackdown on the tent camps that have sprouted in several US cities, which local officials view as a health and public safety hazard.

In London, protesters refused to budge as a deadline to leave their camp outside St. Paul's Cathedral passed, with the City of London Corporation now expected to start legal action to remove them.

Thousands also marched in Spain and Athens to protest austerity measures and public spending cuts, although the demonstrations were not driven by linked to the OWS movement.

"We are unstoppable! Another world is possible!" chanted the crowd on the Brooklyn Bridge, which organizers said was 20,000 strong. New York police refused to offer a record estimate.

Union activists and students joined the movement's hard-core members for the march, which was kept to the bridge's pedestrian walkway—allowing evening rush-hour traffic to proceed unhindered under the watchful eye of police.

Trucks and cars honked their horns in support of the demonstrators, who carried small electric candles in a festive atmosphere. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

New PM offers economic rescue plan for Italy

ROME—Mario Monti, the newly chosen prime minister of Italy, unveiled an ambitious growth-boosting program before the Italian Senate on Thursday, warning that Italy and Europe faced a moment of "serious emergency" and calling on lawmakers for national unity and responsibility. As a time of international financial instability that is threatening the euro currency, and with the eyes of world markets on Italy, Monti, an economist and former European commission member, said his government would work to change Italy's labor-market and pension systems, fight tax evasion and make it easier for businesses to grow. But his also urged Europe to understand what is at stake if it leaves Italy to its own fate. *New York Times News Service*

Portugal refuses to extradite US fugitive

MADRID—A Portuguese court denied on Thursday a US request to extradite the fugitive murderer and hijacker who was apprehended in September on a village outside Lisbon where he had lived since the 1980s. His lawyer said. The United States had sought to have the fugitive, George Wright, 66, returned to finish the 15-to-30-year murder sentence that he was serving when he escaped from prison in 1975 and to face charges for a hijacking two associates. Wright commandeered a flight from Detroit along with several other hijackers. They demanded a $1 million ransom and to be flown to Algeria. Wright's lawyer, Manuel Luis Ferreira, praised the ruling. *AFP*

Ex-Rwandan mayor convicted in 1994 massacre

KAMPALA, UGANDA—Of any one of the most notorious cases in the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. In a normally sleepy lakeside town, more than 2,000 Tutsis driven from their homes accepted a local priest's offer of refuge in his church. But it was a ruse, and after days of siege the building was bulldozed, killing them all. Almost 5,000 other Tutsis were slaughtered in Kibuye, one of the bloodiest killing fields in the campaign to eradicate the ethnic minority. On Thursday, Rwanda's former mayor, Gregoire Ndahimana, was found guilty of genocide and crimes against humanity, the 43rd conviction by the special UN tribunal covering the Rwandan genocide. *AFP*

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Greco

Syria rebs attack anew; Russia warns of war

DAMASCUS—Rebel troops hit offices of Syria's ruling party on Thursday, a day after a daring raid on an intelligence base that prompted Russia to warn that its longtime ally risks "full-scale civil war."

The rocket-propelled grenade attack in northwestern Idlib province, near Turkey, came as government forces killed eight people, including two children, despite an Arab League ultimatum that Syria halt the bloodshed or risk sanctions.

"A group of dissident troops attacked regime youth offices, where security agents were meeting, with rocket-propelled grenades and clashes broke out," said the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

The official Sana news agency denied the attack had taken place, saying it was "misinformation by the media."

On Wednesday fighters opposed to Syria's President Bashar al-Assad raided an intelligence base outside the capital, reports of which prompted Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov to warn both sides to stop the violence.

"Of course, if the opposition is going to use such methods it will lead... to full-scale civil war," Lavrov said.

The minister was speaking after talks with EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton, who said "it's time for President Assad to stand down."

Ashton also hosted Arab League chief Nabil al-Arabi to meet with EU foreign ministers in the next hours to discuss ways to pile pressure on Syria's regime.

France, a major instigator of Nato's military intervention in Libya, countered its own diplomatic push against Damascus with Foreign Minister Alain Juppe in Turkey for talks on the first stop of a tour that will continue on to Arab League heavyweights United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Kuwait.

Russia has been deeply opposed to Western efforts to foment revolution the rebels, fearing it might clear the way for a Libya-style Western military intervention under a UN mandate.

On Oct. 4, it joined with China in vetoing a Western-drafted Security Council resolution that would have threatened Assad's regime with "targeted measures" if it continued its deadly crackdown on protesters, which the UN says has killed more than 3,500 people.

Another Syrian dissident Haytham al-Maleh took issue with Russia's warning of civil war, saying the intelligence base, where a number of detainees were being held, was a legitimate target in the protection of civilians.

"The attack on one of the worst departments of the security services does not mean a civil war. This security office [serves in protecting civilians, no more, no less," Maleh told Al-Jazeera television.

AFP

Green Rewards

Smart receives 5th award for tapping renewable energy to power cell sites.

Green Mobile Award at the 2009 Asia Mobile Global Mobility Awards in Barcelona, Spain in 2009

Environmental Excellence award at the 5th Asian CSR Awards in 2009

Award of Merit for Smart's Energy Efficiency program at the Philippine Quill Awards in 2009

Green Technology Award at the Asia Communication Awards in Singapore in 2011

SMART

Man charged with trying to kill Obama

WASHINGTON—A 21-year-old Idaho man who allegedly called US President Barack Obama the "devil" and the "anti-Christ" was charged on Thursday with attempting to assassinate him by firing shots at the White House.

Oscar Ortega-Hernandez was arrested by Pennsylvania state police on Wednesday following last week's shooting incident at the presidential mansion in Washington, one of the world's most closely guarded buildings.

Obama and his wife Michelle were in California at the time of the incident, and no one was injured.

Ortega-Hernandez was charged in US federal court in Pittsburgh, where a judge ordered that he remain in police custody, the official said. He could face a maximum sentence of life in prison if convicted.

He was arrested at a hotel near Indiana, Pennsylvania, after gunshots were heard late Friday near the White House, about 600 to 700 meters away on Constitution Avenue, Secret Service Special Agent Edwin Donovan said.

Within five minutes of the shooting, authorities located an abandoned vehicle on Constitution Avenue, which runs along the northern border of the Washington Mall. That car was found to be registered to Ortega Hernandez.

According to the criminal complaint, investigators recovered a semiautomatic assault rifle "with a large scope mounted on the top portion of the weapon" along with ammunition and nine spent shell casings.

From Constitution Avenue, a shooter would have a clear line of sight to the White House, across the Ellipse and the South Lawn of the presidential mansion where Obama, his wife, their two daughters and the first lady's mother live.

Traffic is not restricted on Constitution Avenue and members of the public can approach the wrought iron fence at the bottom of the South Lawn on foot.

Two witnesses who knew Ortega Hernandez well said he had described Obama as the "devil" and the "anti-Christ," according to the criminal complaint.

AFP

Khmer Rouge 'First Lady' released

PHNOM PENH—Prosecutors in Cambodia's Khmer Rouge tribunal are expected to decide on Friday whether to appeal against a decision to release a genocide suspect deemed unfit for trial because she has dementia.

Thursday's order for the unconditional release of Ieng Thirith—the regime's "First Lady" and only female leader charged by the UN-backed court—came just days before the tribunal was to hear opening statements in her trial with three concerned.

Prosecutors at the court have 24 hours to request the stay of the 79-year-old woman's release and appeal against the order or she will be freed, court sources said.

Court-appointed experts told the tribunal last month that Ieng Thirith suffers from memory loss and most likely has Alzheimer's disease.

They noted that she had trouble remembering her past and once even failed to recall the name of her husband and cousin Ieng Sary, the regime's former foreign affairs minister.

AFP

IN THIS ISSUE

■ Landbank releases P22B to farmers, fisherfolk /B5
■ GDP seen to grow by 4.9% in 3rd quarter /B8

Editor Raul G. Manalo ● Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano
BUSINESS

10-month BOP surplus hits $9.93B

Bangko Sentral says 2011 level to exceed target

By Michelle V. Rarra

THE PHILIPPINES posted a balance-of-payments surplus of $9.93 billion in the 10 months to October, supported by inflows from portfolio investments, exports and remittances, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday.

The BOP surplus in the first 10 months was up 8 percent from $9.19 billion in the same period last year.

But for the month of October, the BOP, the difference between foreign exchange inflows and outflows, stood at a surplus of $288 million, down 92 percent from $3.74 billion in the same month last year.

The decline was blamed largely on the debt crisis in the euro zone that dampened the outlook among portfolio fund managers on the global economy. Investments and the negative sentiment on the international front was the reason investors rushed in on their securities instruments, mainly in the form of stocks and bonds from emerging markets like the Philippines.

Earlier, the central bank said it was reviewing its current 2011 balance-of-payments surplus forecast of $6.7 billion and might revise it upwards after the figure was exceeded during August.

The Philippines posted a record BOP surplus of $5.43 billion in 2010, boosted by strong portfolio inflows.

Net portfolio inflows in the 10 months to October reached $3.44 billion compared with last year's $2.54 billion.

The Bangko Sentral has said that it might keep its 7 percent remittance growth forecast for the year despite the slowing US economy and euro zone's debt problems.

(A REPORTER, B2)

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
Nov. 18, 2011
43.395

STOCK MARKET
Nov. 18, 2011
32.23

Stocks end lower

SHARE prices closed lower for the second straight day due to a technical correction following a significant rally since late last week.

The main Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) dipped

(STORY, B2)

Tanco Group acquires 40% of PWU for ₱450M

To add 5 campuses, boost student population

By Abigail L. Ho

THE GROUP of businessman Enrique Tanco has invested P450 million in Philippine Women's University, giving it a 40-percent stake in the nearly century-old educational institution.

In a briefing yesterday, PWU president Jose Francisco Benitez said the infusion would allow the school to renovate its buildings and upgrade its equipment.

PWU's curriculum would still be largely the same, he said, but some improvements would be made to ensure that students offered would be able to keep pace with technological changes.

"We have a lot of dreams for the university. The entry of the Tanco group strengthens and liberates the university to pursue those dreams. It opens the door to everything that we've always wanted to do. Sky is the limit," he said.

Tanco group spokesperson Monica Jacob said they aimed to increase PWU's student population from the current 4,000 to 15,000 over the next five years.

The university's reach would also be expanded over the medium to long term with the addition of five new campuses in Metro Manila and even in the provinces, Tanco said.

Jacob said the Tanco group also planned to strengthen PWU's basic education offering as well as set up schools of law and of health, nutrition and wellness. The university's existing graduate school of business and liberal arts and humanities offerings would also be improved.

"We want to give their arts program a digital component. I want to see an integration of arts of tomorrow," Jacobson said.

He said other members of the Tanco group, particularly the STI education services group, would also benefit from the PWU buy-in.

"The benefits are not one way. We'll adopt best practices from both sides. We'll also learn from PWU," he said.

Other Tanco group companies, such as personal firm Philfirst, would also benefit from its acquisition. Jacob said PWU would be recommended to plan holders who would be looking for a school for their beneficiaries.

Apart from PWU, Tanco said his group sees investments with other educational institutions for possible acquisition, mostly those in Southern Luzon and the Visayas.

Cirtek shares up 13.57% on listing

SHARES of semiconductor manufacturer Cirtek Holdings Philippines Corp. rose more than a tenth yesterday in one of the most successful initial public offerings (IPO) this year.

Despite dismal market conditions, Cirtek shares jumped 13.57 percent yesterday to close at ₱7.95 each, outperforming the main blue-chip index, which fell 0.7 percent on the same day. The shares captured the day at ₱7.90, reaching an intra-day high of ₱8.25 and a low of ₱7.81.

Officials attributed the share's performance to the company's bright prospects, despite slowing demand from traditional electronics export markets such as the United States and Europe.

"We're seeing growing demand from emerging markets in Asia," Cirtek chair Jerry Lin said. "We're seeing more orders in the fourth quarter of the year coming from Asia as well."

Cirtek's share sale did better than all other IPOs earlier this year. Industrial gases Megaworld Construction Corp. saw its share price close flat on the day of its IPO last February. More recently, retailer Puregold Price Club Inc. saw its shares fall 12 percent on the day of its IPO early last month.

The Laguna-based Cirtek raised ₱296 million from the share sale, which was much lower than the ₱600 million it was allowed to raise by the Securities and Exchange Commission in September. Paola G. Mendiolilla

Filinvest to list ₱3B in bonds

By Paola E. Plamadilla

PROPERTY firm Filinvest Land Inc. has obtained approval to list ₱3 billion worth of bonds due in 2018 on the country's third-largest securities exchange.

The company plans to list its five-year and three-month bonds with a yield of 6.1562 percent, which will mature on Dec. 7, 2016, on the Philippine Dealing and Exchange Corp. (PDEX) board this Nov. 29.

"The PDEX approval paves the way for the secondary bourse listing of the bonds," the Gotianun-led real estate developer said in a disclosure yesterday.

Listing on PDEX will give interested investors the chance to buy the Filinvest Land notes from current bondholders who, in turn, may want to liquidate their holdings.

Filinvest issued the bonds last July Due to strong demand at the time, the company said the bond issue was later oversubscribed. Philippine Rating Services Corp. (Philratings) earlier assigned the highest rating of PRS Aaa for the notes.

The bonds were issued in 598,000 and ₱13,800 denominations. Unionbank Inc. served as the issue manager and underwriter for the bond issue. The selling agent was Land West Banking Corp., the Gotianun family's banking arm.

Proceeds from the debt sale were to be used for the company's capital expenditures (capex) requirements for 2011. Filinvest earlier disclosed that its capex budget for 2011 was at ₱12 billion, more than double the ₱5-billion capex in 2010.

The company plans to sell more than 14,000 residential units this year, almost double the 2010 level. This entails the rollout of 17 new projects and 24 additional phases of existing projects. FLI also plans to put up two new office buildings and a chain of affordable hotels.

FLI's business segments are divided between real estate and housing. The real estate segment is primarily composed of socialized, affordable, mid-die income, high-end housings, entrepreneurial communities, townships, residential farm estates, private membership clubs, commercial center development, medium and high-rise buildings, and condohotels.

10-month

From page B1

Remittances from overseas Filipinos remained strong despite economic problems in the United States and the euro zone because of the rising demand for labor in alternative labor markets.

The Bangko Sentral said that the country's outward remittance activity remained with its comfortable levels despite the decline in the BOP surplus in October.

The ₱9.50-billion surplus in the first 10 months was actually higher than the original full-year forecast of ₱6.7 billion.

The Bangko Sentral said the surplus was expected to remain solid above ₱6.7 billion until the end of the year as inflows mainly from remittances were expected to continue supporting the country.

A surplus in the BOP adds to the country's total reserves of foreign currencies, or the gross international reserves (GIR).

The GIR stood at $75.9 billion as of the end of October and was seen to reach a new record high of at least $76 billion by the end of the year.

Fitch, a report from Reuters

15 PH oil blocks attract investor interest, DOE says

By Abigail L. Ho

BUILDING on the gains of two successful overseas conditions, the Department of Energy attracted more foreign investor interest in the 15 hydrocarbon blocks being auctioned under the Philippine Energy Contracting Round 1 (PECR 1) on a roving presentation in Italy.

The DOE's Italian roadshow for the PECR 4 took place on Oct. 25-26 at the Americas Association of Petroleum Geologists Inc. 2011 International Conference and Exhibition.

Hundreds of financial managers and international petroleum exploration company executives converged at the event, the largest of its kind in the industry.

Energy Assistant Secretary Ramon Allan Oca, in his presentation during the conference, highlighted the need to find "the next gold mine" in the

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SECURITY	100% Collateralized by Philippine Government Securities
DENOMINATION	minimum of PhP 50,000 & increments of PhP 5,000 thereafter
TENOR	5 years and 3 months
ISSUE DATE	25 November 2011

First Metro Investment Corporation

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PSE backs out of Asean exchange connectivity scheme

By Paolo G. Montecillo

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange (PSE) has shelved plans to join a multilateral exchange tieup that will allow investors from other Southeast Asian countries to buy shares in local blue chip companies.

The PSE on Friday said it still needed to drum up interest for the project, which would also allow local retail investors and brokers to buy into performing companies in neighboring countries.

"The exchange has decided to defer its participation in the Asean [Association of Southeast Asian Nations] Link, or inter-Asean connectivity platform scheduled to be launched by 2012," the PSE said in a disclosure.

The Philippines was one of the first four countries that pledged participation in the planned trading link. The other three were Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand. Other Asean bourses are expected to join the trading link by 2013 and 2014.

The PSE did not say when it planned to join the Asean exchange.

The project aims to connect the equity markets in Southeast Asia, giving the region's companies more investment opportunities.

The interconnection of markets is also seen as a step toward the eventual economic integration of the culturally diverse Southeast Asian region, similar to the European Union.

The PSE said it would "undertake efforts to generate further interest and appetite for the project from its local brokers and the investing public."

"The PSE looks forward to resuming the Asean Link at a future date, and, in the meantime, will continue to keep abreast of the initiatives of the Asean Exchanges toward promoting and strengthening the Asean capital market," the PSE said.

Among those investors was the "Pansit Stan" project, which is one of 30 most exciting stocks in the region. Together with the PSE in the project are Malaysia's Bursa Malaysia, Vietnam's Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh stock exchanges, the Indonesia Stock Exchange, the Singapore Exchange and The Stock Exchange of Thailand.

BSP further eases forex rules

Move to allow freer flow of foreign currencies

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has further relaxed its foreign exchange regulatory framework, making it easier for the public to buy and sell foreign currencies.

The move, which is expected to help improve the country's investment climate, is in response to the growing need for faster trading of foreign currencies given the rising business activities in the country, the BSP said.

"The Monetary Board of the BSP approved several amendments to existing foreign exchange regulations as part of the continuing efforts to keep the foreign exchange regulatory framework attuned with current economic conditions," the BSP said in a statement.

Under the new rules, the list of transactions for which foreign exchange may be purchased from banks even without approval of the BSP has been expanded.

The list now includes the following: loans of foreign-owned corporations, refund of unused foreign loans or grants, payment for underwriting fees owed to foreigners for initial public offerings of local equities, and settlement by Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. of depositors' claims of foreign currency-denominated deposits in banks that have ceased operations.

The new rules also provide that authorized agent banks may sell foreign currencies to clients who want to make advance payments of imports, regardless of amount, without prior approval of the BSP.

Moreover, accepting of foreign loans to fund infrastructure projects prioritized by the government, particularly those under the so-called Public-Private Partnership (PPP) program, no long requires prior approval by the central bank.

The new rules likewise lift documentation requirements for converting earnings and dividends from investments offshore, and for converting foreign exchange into pesos for purposes of direct equity investments.

In the meantime, the BSP said that between December 2011 and February 2012, foreign currencies may be purchased from authorized banks for purposes of paying foreign loans that are not registered with the BSP.

Previously, the purchase of foreign currencies to pay for registered loans was not allowed.

The foreign loans covered are those outstanding as of June 30 and are due between December 2011 and February 2012.

These revisions of the BSP rules followed the adoption of certain measures aimed at liberalizing the country's foreign exchange regulations.

PASCOR, GAWAD KALINGA SCHOOLS

Pagcor chair Cristino Naguiat Jr. (left) and Gawad Kalinga executive director Jose Luis Oquiñena lead the rites to formally commence the construction of the Sibol Kinder garten classroom at the Mariano L. Adriano Elementary School in Barangay Tenazas, Angat, Bulacan. The unit becomes the first of the 100 learning centers to be built nationwide. The construction will be funded by Pagcor in partnership with the Department of Education (DepEd) and Gawad Kalinga Inc.

Cut in BSP reserve requirement seen

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas may cut the 20 percent reserve requirement for banks as part of a plan to create fund to liquidity management tool.

A cut in the reserve requirement is hoped to help ensure that the planned overhaul of the reserve requirement framework will have a neutral impact on the liquidity of the economy.

BSP Deputy Governor Nestor Espenilla Jr. said the central bank's move was not her intended to tighten nor loosen monetary policy.

The plan is aimed at merely simplifying the rules of banking reserves, he said.

Under the proposal, banks will be required to keep all their reserves with the BSP.

Currently, only 18 percentage points of the 21 percent reserve requirement for banks is actually kept in the vault of the BSP, which is called the "statutory reserve." The higher share of 11 percentage points, called the "liquidity reserve," is set aside by banks to their own vaults.

Given this arrangement, the central bank said it was difficult to monitor the banking system's actual liquidity reserve. There is also the risk that portion of the liquidity reserve is not being used for monetary activities instead of being religiously kept in the vaults of banks. This is considered a loophole in the management of liquidity in the economy.

"The proposal is aimed at streamlining the structure of the reserve system of the BSP. The cash reserves kept by banks in every volume and difficult to (count), unlike those parked in the BSP," Espenilla said.

If all reserves would be kept by the BSP, the difficulty in monitoring the reserves would be eliminated.

To make the impact on overall liquidity neutral, Espenilla said, the reserve requirement ratio of 22 percent might be slashed.

"The idea is to streamline and improve the structure, and to make a neutral change," Espenilla said.

In the meantime, banks have expressed discomfort over the proposed overhaul of the reserve requirement framework. This is because the overall plan also includes a provision seeking the removal of interests paid by the BSP on the reserves.

Consequently, income significantly of banks would be adversely affected once the proposed overhaul is implemented.

BSP officials, however, said that in many central banks around the world, reserves were not usually kept interest. The proposed overhaul, therefore, is consistent with international practices, they said. *Michelle V. Ramos*

PH agri firm exporting more hybrid seeds to Bangladesh

By Roz T. Delvendes

PHILIPPINE Sinsi. H. Agritech Corp. is shipping more hybrid rice seeds to Bangladesh to help the country maintain self-sufficiency in cereals.

Officials of SLAC said with those of state-owned Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corp. (BADC) on Friday, agreed that more parental seeds of SL Agritech's SL-8H variety would be exported to Bangladesh to produce first generation (F-1) seeds that would be distributed to farmers who will then produce table rice.

BADC wants to expand SL-8H production to 5,000 tons of F-1 seeds by 2015 from the present 700 tons.

SL Agritech chair and CEO Henry Lim Bon Liong told reporters after the meeting that Bangladesh had started SL-8H production in 2009 in just 60 tons. This expanded to 300 tons in 2010 and 700 tons in 2011. Lim said the agency expects more orders from the SL-8H seed production in Bangladesh and other countries.

BADC chair S.M. Nazmul Islam, also additional secretary (equivalent to undersecretary) of the Bangladesh Ministry of Agriculture, said farmers had reported high yields from SL-8H, prompting the Bangladesh government wants to expand production of the hybrid variety.

"Bangladesh is a small country, with just half the Philippines' area, but a population of 160 million, which is more than the population of the Philippines. With our population growing every year and faced with climate change, we need more hybrid rice production to maintain food sufficiency," Islam said.

Bangladesh Ministry of Agriculture additional secretary Quazi Akhter Hossain said his country was able to produce 35 million tons of mixed rice, corn, and wheat) per year. Bangladesh attained self-sufficiency in cereals production in 2000, he said.

The officials from Bangladesh said that in their country, open pollinated varieties yielded only 3 to 4 tons of table rice per hectare, while hybrid varieties imported by private companies were yielding 8 tons per hectare. SL-8H, which BADC imports to sell to farmers at a "no profit, no loss" basis, yields 11 tons per hectare.

Besides Bangladesh, SL Agritech has been exporting hybrid rice seeds to Indonesia and Vietnam, which is the world's No. 2 rice exporter after Thailand.

EDC renews deal with PNG firm

By Amy R. Remo

ENERGY Development Corp., the country's largest producer of geothermal energy has renewed for the fifth time its drilling contract with Lihir Gold Ltd. (LGL) of Papua New Guinea.

In a filing with the Philippine Stock Exchange, EDC said its contract with LGL, one of the leading gold producers in the region, was extended up to Dec. 31, 2012.

At present, EDC provides drilling services to LGL, which depends on geothermal energy for the power requirements of its gold mine and processing facility.

As of end-September this year, EDC's revenue from drilling services fell by 10.7 percent to P 522.3 million, from P585.7 million a year ago.

EDC said this was due to "lower drilling days and average exchange rate."

The revenue from drilling services represented 2.9 percent of EDC's gross revenue of P 16.22 billion for the first three quarters of 2011.

EDC earlier reported it had opted to secure the service of globally competitive drilling service providers. Outsourcing in drilling services is a practice which the company believes is necessary to adopt global best practices of oil, gas and geothermal companies.

The geothermal firm, however, continued to "focus its lines of drilling rigs to mediate it from global price volatility and availability issues. We will outsource services and tools as we deem appropriate," EDC president and CEO Richard B. Tantoco said.

Tantoco said the move would not have an impact on its drilling projects overseas as it was "easy to outsource" services. He even said said that outsourcing is "what all the majors do."

EDC earlier announced that it was awaiting for prospective geothermal drilling projects in countries like Chile, Kenya and Indonesia.

HUNGER INTO HOPE. Miss Universe 2010 Fourth Runner-up Venus Raj joins the World Hunger Relief campaign, a private sector-led fundraising effort to help alleviate hunger and undernutrition in the Philippines, more than 143 Pizza Hut Taste Ambassadors are raising money to help the United Nations World Food Programme. With Raj are (from left) Pizza Hut Asia Pacific marketing director Michael Tang, WFP country director Stephen Anderson and Pizza Hut COO Lars Peterson.

Landbank releases ₱22B to farmers, fisherfolk

By Rica T. Dichoso

LAND Bank of the Philippines (Landbank) released ₱21.9 billion in loans from January to September 2011, benefiting more than 661,000 small farmers and fisherfolk nationwide.

The state-owned bank said in a statement that the amount is 17 percent or ₱3.1 billion higher than the ₱18.8 billion released during the same period last year.

The loan releases were channeled through 887 farmers and fisherfolk cooperatives and 296 countryside financial institutions, Landbank said.

Landbank also registered a 28-percent increase in its total agriculture loan to ₱237.8 billion this September 30() from ₱197.5 billion in September 2010.

Landbank president and CEO Gilda B. Rico attributed the expansion of the bank's loan portfolio to the multiple effects raised by the bank to further strengthen its support to its priority sectors and projects with high development impact.

These include farmers and fisherfolk cooperatives, microenterprises and small and medium-scale enterprises, countryside financial institutions, local government units, agribusiness and food production, rural infrastructure development, and environment projects.

"The expansion in Landbank loan portfolio is also reflective of the aggressive focus on credit outreach and the gains achieved in countryside development," Rico said.

Loans to the bank's priority sectors of ₱160.1 billion is as of the third quarter is 11 percent higher compared to the ₱145.0 billion registered in the same period last year. This represents 67.4 percent of the bank's regular loan portfolio.

Over 660,000 get gov't loans

From page B1

0.74 per cent or $1.23 points.

Closing at 4,301.43, peaks while the broader all-share index fell 0.39 percent to 1,615.24.

Lack of compelling news resulted in modest trading activities with 3.07 billion shares changing hands for less than ₱5 billion.

"With the rather uneventful third-quarter earnings season concluding, the market looked to its global peers for leads on where to push prices," local brokerage firm Accord Capital Inc. says said in its daily comment.

"Notwithstanding a number positive developments last week, the growing perception of a protracted European crisis, a slow-cycle spell in US growth and a drop in export earnings at home may keep investor on edge heading into another week of trades." Accord Capital Inquirer said. (With G. Almeda-Ilo)

MRC Allied gets go-ahead for gold plant

By Rica T. Dichoso

LISTED holding company MRC Allied Inc. has signed an agreement that will enable it to build and operate a gold processing plant in San Miguel, Surigao del Sur.

In a disclosure on Thursday to the Philippine Stock Exchange, MRC Allied chair and president Benjamin M. Romero said the company, through CPO Mineral Ltd., made the agreement with the Tagon-San Miguel Manobo-Ikomod Tribe Council.

Romero said the Council is the exclusive holder of the Ancestral Domain Rights or IDR on earth mentioned by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples for the development of an area of about 20,000 hectares within mineral-rich Surigao del Sur.

The partnership calls for MRC to provide employment, education, and other public facilities for the tribal groups, on top of the support they will receive for mining operations.

In return, MRC gains control of operations and the ability to sell the gold produced.

CIO Miguel Bitonga said via e-mail that the IDR held by the Council helps expedite the application for Mineral Production Sharing Agreement or MPSA for MRC Surigao.

15 PH oil . . .

From page B1

Philippine upstream oil and gas sector.

"The skyrocketing prices of fossil fuels have made it more important that the Philippines and the rest of the world could be possible investors and explorers. We have to become competitive with our neighbors to this particular underlining," he said.

Prior to the presentation on July, the PECR 4 brought its PECR 4 roadshow to Singapore and Australia, and it is said "with a lot of enthusiasm" by potential investors.

Since the formal launch of the PECR 4, the conduct of the Australia and Singapore roadshows, and the opening of the online data room in mid-June, the DOE said it had piqued the interest of at least 50 companies.

These include industry giants Royal Dutch Shell Group, Total, Eliton and BHP Billiton.

The 15 blocks being offered in investors under the PECR 4 span a more than 1.6-million-hectare area in the Northeast Palawan, East Palawan and Sulu Sea basins.

For investors to be given service contracts under the PECR 4, they should meet specific technical, legal and financial criteria, she/Dred other bidders.

There are currently 28 active petroleum service contracts in the country.

Stocks end lower

From page B1

0.74 per cent or 31.23 points.

Closing at 4,301.43, peaks while the broader all-share index fell 0.39 percent to 1,615.24.

Lack of compelling news resulted in modest trading activities with 3.07 billion shares changing hands for less than ₱5 billion.

"With the rather uneventful third-quarter earnings season concluding, the market looked to its global peers for leads on where to push prices," local brokerage firm Accord Capital Inquirer says said in its daily comment.

"Notwithstanding a number positive developments last week, the growing perception of a protracted European crisis, a slow-cycle spell in US growth and a drop in export earnings at home may keep investor on edge heading into another week of trades." Accord Capital Inquirer said. (Rica T. Dichoso)

Gemadeo "Boni" Tadeco
Chairman

Incorporated in 1907 under the name of Engineering Brigham Co., Ltd. as a supplier of heavy construction equipment, mainly for the sugar industry, the company was renamed Engineering Brigham Incorporated in 1947. It started as a joint venture between Atty. Manuel Elizalde, Sr. and Spanish businessman Manuel Soriano. Then, in 2006, we celebrated 100 years of Squires Brigham.

Over the decades of more than a century, we've grown beyond construction equipment. Over time, we've moved into many profitable lines of business and developed them into industry leaders. Today, we're involved in manufacturing, trading and distribution in the Philippines. And the reason is simple: because we've been good at what we do.

This has not happened in the absence of core competencies. We have been described as the largest privately owned arms and ammunition manufacturer in Asian Pacific Rim and we cannot thank them for their patronage and support. We are humbled by our track record and proud of our world class manufacturing facilities. Without the contributions of our employees, we could not have achieved the many milestones we have reached in our history. Therefore, we salute the men and women of Squires Brigham.

The Philippines is a country we love. Therefore, that is our first order of business – contribute the best we can to our country.

We have been blessed with the success of Squires Brigham Group of companies, with businesses as our flagship, which has its interests in not only manufacturing, both defense and commercial, but also in distribution, agribusiness, oil, gas, banking and our investment commitment as corporations to the development of infrastructure projects as the Philippines continues to progress.

We will strive to stay in business. Bringing the best of the Philippines to the rest of the world."

Thank you for your trust and continued patronage to us.

Rolando A. Kapunan
President

We are grateful for all the challenges that have come our way. They encouraged us to persevere and prosper in the business and ammunition industry. Through awesome hardships brought about by the Japanese occupation, the prohibitions during martial law, situation problems during martial law, situation problems and competition from the illegal "cash" manufacturers, we steadfastly strived to build an exemplary and strong force in the industry.

In the mid-70's, the country undertook a Self Reliance Defense Posture Program through the progressive of the DND and AFP. We committed ourselves to develop the Limited 5.56 ammunition in country as our contribution and consistently delivered the first order of the SRDP program by pursuing this commercial model and not relying solely on government contracts, we managed to be one of the very few surviving SRDP participants. Hail the only one.

We believe that the legacy of a pioneering spirit, simple, yet resilient and a hard commitment to the Philippines will endure the world. We look forward to institutionalizing our industry and crafting legislation that provides responsible firearm ownership, while protecting the rights of citizens.

All this will not be possible without the support of our employees, suppliers, creditors, and friends in the industry. That all you – thank you for inspiring us and supporting our endeavors.

Jeffrey "Bo Jo" Danoso
Squires Brigham Group of Companies

It is my honor to congratulate Squires Brigham on its 70th anniversary as the Philippines. As a gentleman who represented the Philippines in numerous championship shooting tournaments around the world, I cannot thank Squires Brigham through whose support for its continued support and sponsorships not only of the shooting team but also of countless grassroots shooting clubs and shooting activities across the country. The company has contributed so much to our athletes as well as to our national pride and identity across the world.

Let Squires Brigham remain and be the Philippine flags its high reputation for many more generations to come.

Eric Ursulfo
Former Senior PSC Shooter Athlete
Olympian

It is my pleasure to have the opportunity to congratulate Atty. Manuel Elizalde, Jr. and the Squires Brigham Group of Companies for 70 years of existence. I can say with confidence that Squires Brigham is the Philippine arms industry's flagship of excellence. I have been using Armscor ammunition since 1980 when I was my first competition and I have been using it ever since. Armscor ammunition is very reliable and consistent in its performance. I have never had a misfire. Thanks to Armscor and Squires, I have been successful in a number of tournaments. Some business generations to local suppliers, joint ventures partnerships through export sales and transfer of technology to make the Philippines even more widely respected as a reliable supplier of world-class quality firearms and ammunition for defense and sporting use.

Armscor itself has been the official export ammunition of several international competitions, including the prestigious International Practical Shooting Confederation (IPSC) World Shoot held every three years.

Massimo Tartaglia
Managing Director
Fiocchi Tartaglia S.r.l.

I have great pride in commemorating the 70th anniversary of Squires Brigham in the Philippines and as an old friendship with Armscor. We have been in the gun manufacturing industry for quite some time and we appreciate the quality of Armscor products. All the best on your 70th anniversary and we wish you continued success.

Squires Brigham Co. Inc. Group of Companies

Squires Brigham Co. Inc.
70 CELEBRATED YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

AIMING FOR A WORLD OF PEACE AND SECURITY

Seventy years is long enough time for a corporation to make a difference in the society where it belongs. Such is the case with Squires Brigham Company, Incorporated, the parent company of the Philippines' leading arms and ammunition company, Arms Corporation of the Philippines (Armscor).

Engineering Brigham has proven a lot of its own to the Philippines' industrial history from its humble beginnings as a supplier of heavy equipment for the sugar industry to its present diversified operations in the defense and shooting sports industries.

Gen Eduardo G. Taguinod
Chairman, Board of Directors
Arms Corporation of the Philippines

At the 69th PSC World Shoot (above) right to Gen. Eduardo Wendy Elizalde (standing) were Ely Erik Ursulfo, Oscar Soto, Ramon "Monching" Tuason, Jeffrey "Bo Jo" Danoso and Rolando "Rolly" Kapunan.

From its acquisitions of companies in Canada purchased by Don Pedro Tuason in 1941, its sons, Salvador, Teodoro and Manuel Pedro broadened its offering the company to public ownership. Manuel Pedro Tuason formed the Squires Brigham Group of companies with Salvador.

Squires Brigham International, a wholly owned subsidiary of Squires Brigham Co., Inc. are distributor of Armscor products in the Philippines, courtesy of Don Salvador Tuason. Regardless of their generation, Don Salvador, Don Manuel Pedro and Don Teodoro Tuason, sons of Don Pedro Tuason, have successfully managed the company. Most Tuason, son of Teodoro Tuason, Armscor Philippines Representative is responsible for the marketing of Armscor products, including the World Champion Armscor 1911 Pistol, Armscor Rifles, throughout the United States, and served as the commanding officer of the Philippine Marines elected from the ranks. Under the helm of third generation leaders Tuason, son of Salvador, SPI has successfully diversified its business and has established its own dealership, known as Advanced Tactical Firearms, to service the retail and shooting sport industry as well as its own distributorship of products. Marilena, called Armscor Cartridge Inc., Remington Shooting Range, Inc., the multi-awarded and largest commercially operated indoor firing range in Metro Manila that specializes in training to provide safe and responsible firearm handling as well as marksmanship and proficiency. Armscor Philippines Limited, Inc., a distributor of Armscor products in the Philippines, and an importer of firearms, ammunitions and accessories needed in the re-arming and modernization program of AFP, among corporate products from their

Tartaglia of Italy, ITI International of USA, Cabanas of Cuba, Beretta of Italy, Fiocchi, Sabatti and Perazzi of Italy, Benelli, Franchi of Italy, Browning of Belgium, Caracal of United Arab Emirates, Caracal of Turkey, Cimarron of USA, Hodgdon, provider of USA, Federal primers of USA, Sig Sauer of Germany, Swarovski Optik of Austria, Shooting Chrony of Italy and others – Bridgeport Metal Goods Pty Limited, Inc., a subsidiary of Armscor Philippines, with operations in Nanzima, Mukati, Cebu, Davao and more coming in the future. Precision Foundry of the Philippines, Inc., a subsidiary of the leading steel and manufactures parts for Armscor, as well as other companies and customers needing precision investment casting services.

Squires Brigham Co. Inc. effectively led by its Chairman, Gemadeo "Boni" B. Tuason, and its President, Rolando "Rolly" Kapunan, remains its commitment to bring pride and honor to the country through consistent product excellence and reliability, and to continue helping the Philippine Armed Forces modernize its capabilities.

ARMSCOR
Bringing the Best of the Philippines to the Rest of the World

Armscor Armscor Armscor Armscor

Message of Thanks

On the occasion of the 40th day of the demise of

EDNA BAUDILLA-TUPAS

we, her children, Launcho and Nica, and our family members wish to express our deepest gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all who offered masses and prayers, sent flowers, messages of sympathy and other forms of assistance and who, in countless ways, consoled with us in our hour of bereavement.

We are particularly grateful to the management and staff of the Development Academy of the Philippines, ZONTA (Quezon City), PAPA, AMAMS Batch 6, V. Mapa High School Batch '71 and to her other close friends.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always using...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
- Copy of Death Certificate
- Any identification document (ID.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT · MESSAGE OF THANKS · DEATH ANNIVERSARY · GREETINGS · WEB INTEGRATION

"Even when I walk through a dark valley, I feel no harm. For you are at my side, your rod and staff give me courage..."
Psalm 23:4

CLASSIFIEDS

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepEd

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE I

Invitation to Bid
(RE-BID)

The Department of Education, through the Bids and Awards Committee I, intends to apply the sum of **PHILIPPINE PESOS FIVE MILLION FOUR HUNDRED EIGHT THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY and 00/100 (Php 5,408,450.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the 20 lot Alternative Learning System Accreditation and Equivalency Test (ALCPAT/ BAT) this economic review of the ABC shall be rejected. Details are as follows:

Item/ Description	Specifications
Processing of Applications Answer Sheets and Checking and Review of Essay Answer Sheets	Programming and Designing Checking of Essay Answer Sheets Checking of Rating Certificates/Copies
Printing, Reproduction/Loading of Certificates of Rating with Seals in Certification, Diploma & Medallion of Test Takers	Printing of Certificate of Ratings Seal Embossed

The Department of Education (DepEd) now invites bids for the above project. Bidders should have completed, within the last five (5) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Philippine Government, particularly in Section 23, Instructions to Bidders (ITB).

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines pursuant to RA 9184, subject to Commonwealth Act 138.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from DepEd Procurement Service at telephone numbers (02) 636-4843 or 636-4845 and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during Office Hours (8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.), or visit the department's website: www.deped.gov.ph.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders on this November 21, 2011, from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Philippine Peso One Hundred (₱100.00). These may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Department, provided that the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

DepEd shall conduct only one (1) conference on **November 25, 2011, 2:00 p.m.** at the Bids Conference Room, interested bidders queries at interested parties.

Bids must be delivered to BAC2 Conference Room, 4th Floor, Rodeo Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City on or before **December 12, 2011, 2:00 a.m.** All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 14.

Bid opening shall be on **December 12, 2011, 2:00 p.m.** at the BAC2 Conference Room, 4th Floor, Rodeo Bldg., Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address above. Late bids shall not be accepted.

DepEd-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare a failure of bidding, and not award the contract or cancel the bidding process without incurring any liability to the affected bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

Ma. Lourdes L. Roberto, Jr.
BAC Secretariat
Procurement Service
Room 106, 1st Floor, Rodeo Bldg.,
DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue,
Pasig City
(02) 636-4843, 636-4845
Telefax (02) 633-4190

(Sgd.) **FRANCISCO H. VARELA**
Undersecretary & BAC 1 Chairperson

DEN – November 21, 2011

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

CEBU REAL-ESTATE FIRM EXPANDS IN LUZON

Taft Property Ventures Development Corp., the real-estate arm of Vicsal Development Corp., a company engaged in the retail business in the Visayas and Mindanao regions, recently acquired a seven-hectare subdivision in Biñan, Laguna, its first project in Luzon. The 6-hectare property was owned previously by The Insular Life Assurance Company Ltd., the first and largest Filipino-American company. Shown in photo exchanging handshakes during the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement for the property acquisition are Jack Gaisano, president and founder of Taft Property Ventures Development Corp. and president of Vicsal Development Corp. (2nd from right); and Hyacinth and Victoria Ayllon, chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Insular Life (2nd from left). They are joined by Manuel Calayan Jr., (far left) and Maryjane Domingo, president and chief operating officer, Insular Life (far right).

TeleDevelopment Services, Inc (TDS) made a partnership with Innovators in People-Philippines (IPP) by signing a MOA last Oct. 27, 2011 at Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City to strengthen its commitment to provide leadership program services. Shown are: (1st row - Jody Bay Whitesell,non-j/vice-president, TDS Inc.); Jaime Wolkowitz,main investor in People-Philippines), Marc Barbosa (training manager-TDS Inc.), Tamuka Nikasanyo,treasurer-investor in People-Philippines), Gerry Plana (chief executive-investor in People-Philippines).

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS
The Yellow Reading Checklist

More Classifieds on pages...

Zambo/Cotcenx Authority A26
Municipality of Lubao A27

From the nation's No. 1 Newspaper:
INQUIRER
JOB

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

RUSH
CUBAO
Very near EDSA
Ready for Occupancy
FOR ANY
INFO CALL/TEXT

BONDS WANTED

HOUSE & LOT

FOR SALE BY OWNER
Complete fitted, Nanny, Servant Lodge, Php 6M, 600,000.00, fully furnished, at Mandaluyong (can host 6 cars), walk or move in condition! 1 year, more details call +6391.357.1019 or email to: ytcruz_ryan@yahoo.com or visit http://3.ly/Ryan_Cruz

LOT

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

FOR LEASE

LOAN & MONEY/CASH

APARTMENT

CONDO / TOWNHOUSE

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

BOATS

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

PETS

WANTED TO BUY

ROLEX
LOUIS VUITTON

CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MULTIMEDIA

FOR SALE

FOR SALE

hire now

HOG FARM SUPERVISOR

"Minimum 5 yrs. experience in piggery operations"
"Strong management skills"
"Bulacan Area"

Email Resume to:
hogsupervisorapplicant@gmail.com

or MAIL to:
Human Resources Dept.
#1 Third Street, Sesaklang
New Manila, Quezon City

bsk dti

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that SPICES MAKER, INC. is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as a Non-Pioneer Producer of Multi-Purpose Electric Rice with Mixed Grains in whole-grain/ground forms, with projected location at #25 Guava Street, Urdaneta, Bamboo City, Cebu 6014.

Any person with valid objections on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objections in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (5) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) GUILLERMO S. LAGUNDIMAO
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

DBP

Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines is inviting interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

Project	Quantity	Approved Budget for the Contract* / Source of Fund: DBP Fund	Cost of Bid Documents
Acquisition of DBP ATM Visa-branded Plastic Cards	400,000 pieces	P8,000,000.00	P5,000.00

*Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening

Date of Completion: The project must be completed within five (5) months from date of contract signing, which shall be on or before the end of May 2012

Schedule of Activities:

Particulars	Date	Venue
Pre-Bidding Conference	November 25, 2011 (Monday) at 10:00 a.m.	9th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City
Submission of Eligibility Requirement Documents, Technical and Financial Proposals	"On or before" 9:00 a.m. of December 12, 2011 (Monday)	BAC Secretariat, 9th Floor, DBP Building Makati City
Opening of Eligibility Requirement Documents, Technical and Financial Proposals	December 13, 2011 (Monday) at 10:00 a.m.	9th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Revised IRR of R.A. 9184 and is not restricted to Filipino citizens. Prospective bidders must be certified Visa card manufacturer and authorized to sell or resell card manufacturing services for at least three (3) years. Only Bids from Bidders who passed the eligibility check will be opened. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall undergo the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification procedure.

Interested parties may download these forms at www.dbp.ph and at the Electronic Procurement Service of the Department of Budget and Management. Prospective bidders may secure the bid documents and Eligibility Requirement Forms from the BAC Secretariat, 9th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City, upon payment of a non-refundable fee (cost of bid documents) of P5,000.00.

The prospective bidders are advised to check the Bank's website and the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) for bid bulletin and announcements regarding the project.

The Development Bank of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any and all bids, annul the bidding process, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further inquiries, please call telephone numbers 8128703/8188511 loc. 2910/2606.

Bids and Awards Committee

CLASSIFIEDS

Triumph International 125 Years of Tailoring Female Shape

BACK IN 1886, HAS MEN-tioned Richard Bruno and entrepreneur Adhemar Otto Gottfried Steinhoffer have established the first seven factory they had just set up in southern Germany would one day become the world's leading supplier of lingerie and shapewear. They surely would have been astonished.

120 years on, the business that started out with just six sewing machines and six employees has developed into a global player with 27,000 employees working in over 120 countries. Known now as Triumph International, and still in the hands of the families of its founders, the company develops, produces and sells fabulous lingerie, shapewear, underwear, beach fashion, loungewear, and sleepwear for women and men, under such renowned brand names as Triumph, Sloggi, Sublime, and Wolford.

Reflexion, innovation and a fervent desire for supreme quality sensitive and cutting-edge design is at the heart of the company's philosophy. It is this extraordinary sense that brings the seductive power to Triumph lingerie and shapewear: every piece flatters the body forms the wearer and expresses a distinctive fashion and beauty sense. Stylish, high-performance, contemporary designs – as other swimwear apparel companies offers such an extensive portfolio of desirable brands and products.

In the anniversary year of 2011, Triumph International's driver of innovation is particularly celebrated by its name brand – Triumph. The label sets trends for the next decade with not just one, but two new ground-breaking collections. Triumph Summer+The Luxury Collection launches, offering a new perspective of lingerie. Furthermore, best-selling Shape Sensation is crowned with a second generation of shaping and truly sensational shapewear. Both collections unite the unrivalled fit and great Triumph style that has been distilled from 125 years of experience in perfecting the female silhouette.

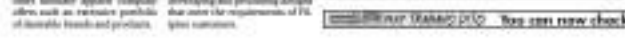
Looking to the future, Triumph International will continue to strive for the very best in design, materials, and craftsmanship, with all the hallmark dedication, passion and relentless drive that encompass its pursuit of the ultimate in accuracy and expertise.

In the Philippines, Triumph International has been under since 1974. Triumph International Philippines Inc. now employs more than 500 persons in Makati that serve as the hub for its sales & marketing operations.

Today, Triumph International Philippines Inc. continues its commitment to the very best standards of service and innovation, developing and producing designs that meet the requirements of Filipino customers.

INVITATION TO OFFER A BID

INVITATION TO BID



BUSINESS

GDP seen to grow by 4.9% in 3rd quarter

By Norvel P. Domingo

PHILIPPINE domestic output may have grown by 4.9 percent in the third quarter from that of the previous quarter, as the economy is seen to remain "relatively strong" despite the decline in exports.

The BSP Group said in a research note that the country's gross domestic product was on track to meet its 2011 growth target of 5.0 percent.

But the financial services group also said that growth in 2012 could be weaker than its initial forecast of 5.2 percent due to lingering export woes.

"Export growth dropped to a 29-month low of -27.6 percent year-on-year in September, following a 11.7-percent contraction in (August)," BSP said. "This implies that total export growth for the year may be flat or even negative."

Even then, the Singapore-based group said prices could have affected these numbers as the volume of exports reportedly grew by an average of 23 percent year-on-year, according to available data covering the months of July and August.

"In nominal value terms, electronics exports were the hardest hit, [but] the export volume of electronics ... was actually higher in July and August compared to a year ago," BSP said. "This suggests that overall GDP may not be as bad as the headline export numbers are suggesting."

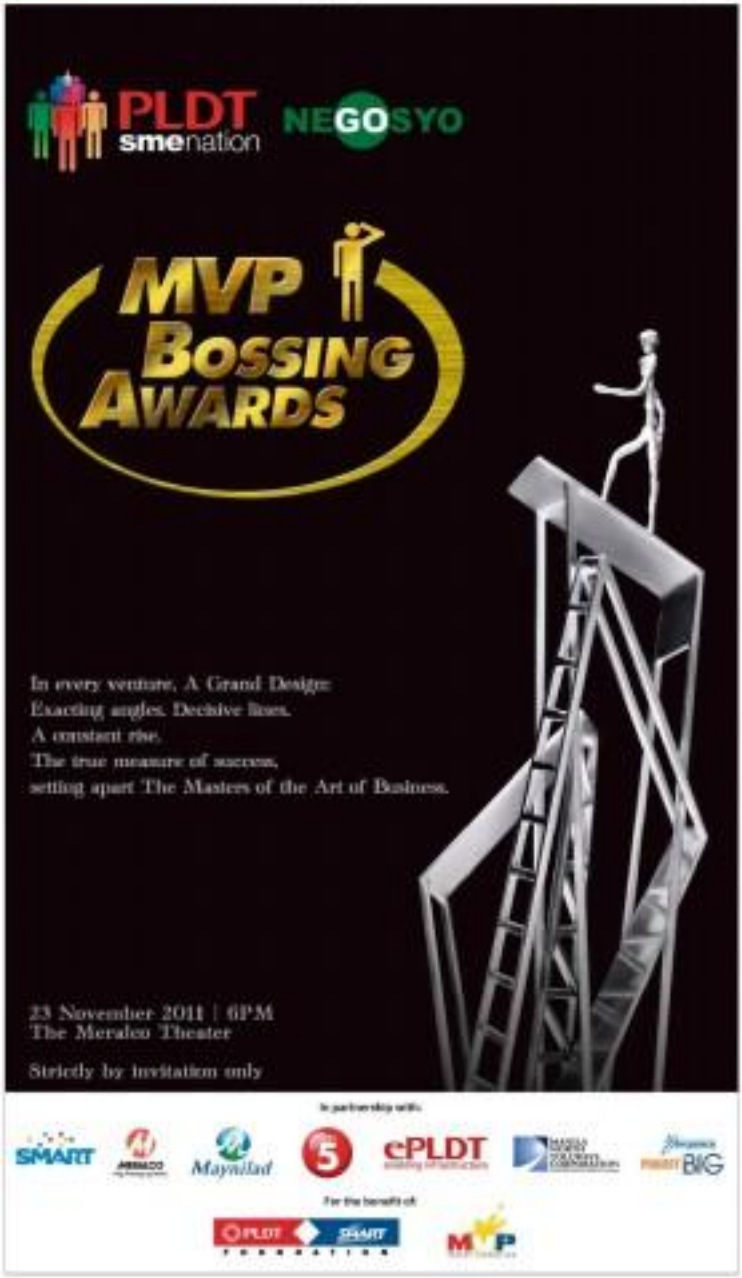
The group also cited other indicators, suggesting that the economy is relatively strong.

For one, the National Statistical Coordination Board reported that the composite leading economic indicator continued to improve. The agency is referring to a set of data that is used for economic forecasting.

DBS also noted growth in bank lending, which reached 24.8 percent year-on-year in August. Data also show that the growth in loans has been around 2 percent month-on-month since April, or double the corresponding rate observed in the first half of 2011.

"Indeed, remittance growth also bears healthy despite external headwinds, rising by an average of 8.6 percent year-on-year in the three months ending September," the group added.

DBS said that 21 of the 26 indicators, which policymakers consider strong domestic economy, it would maintain its growth forecast for this year.



PAL in the red as it booked $39M in losses

By Paolo G. Montecillo

FOR THE second consecutive quarter, flag carrier Philippine Airlines wound up in the red due to high fuel prices and modest revenue growth.

In a statement, the firm of Lucio Tan said it posted a total comprehensive loss of $39.4 million in the second quarter of its fiscal year. This is a reversal from the $26.7 million profit it booked in the same period last year.

The airline said total revenues for the July to September period reached $420.4 million—a 4.7 percent improvement over the year-ago figure of $401.6 million.

But this was not enough to offset the increase in total expenses by $84.8 million, or 22.6 percent, to $459.7 million for the second quarter of 2011.

"Jet fuel, which continues to be the airline's biggest expense, contributed the largest increase in expenses," PAL said in a statement.

PAL said higher fuel prices led to a $48.2 million or 33.9 percent hike in expenses to $190.8 million from $142.3 million for the current three-month period. Average jet fuel prices rose from $84.02 per barrel to $131.99 per barrel, PAL noted.

PAL said that the remaining months in its 2011-2012 fiscal year would be tougher, citing a recent International Air Transport Association report that indicated airline margins were starting to thin.

IATA said that the global airline industry addressed growth in passenger traffic year-on-year as of September 2011 by an average of 6.3 percent.

"However, operating results in recent months are showing a decline in both passenger and cargo traffic, reflecting a reluctance for both business and leisure travel spawned by problems in the US and European economies," PAL said.

Pre-need firm set to beef up education plans

By Abigail L. Ho

PHILWEB Corp. PhilPlans Inc. of the Yuco Group has filed applications with the Insurance Commission to launch three new education plans in a bid to capitalize on a market that has recovered from the stigma of unfulfilled commitments and unpaid claims.

According to PhilPlans president and chief executive Shamir Jacob, the company's education plan, branded Prodigy, has been selling well these past months ...an indication that people have started to trust pre-need firms again until their children's future education is stock.

"We want to help bring back interest in education plans. Filipinos really want to go to school, and education plans are a way to allow them to do so," he told the business.

Holders of PhilPlans education plans have nothing to worry about as the company has a trust fund base of close to P36 billion —half of the industry needed more than P70 billion, Jacob said.

According to the company's official website, more than 80 percent of PhilPlans' trust fund was placed in "highly liquid investments," including government securities and short-term deposits. These investments are all professionally managed.

The company has over 300,000 plan holders with P1 billion in benefits to its plan holders, with education plans accounting for P666 million.

PhilPlans' pension plans and life plans are also selling "very well," Jacob said.

PhilPlans currently has more than 300,000 plan holders. It has been under the Yuco Group since October 2009, following its acquisition from the Philippine American Life and General Insurance Co.

PROPERTY

Editor Cesar G. Mangosing

DESPITE the Subic bid "as abysmal" rank it received, there are still positive points to Manila as a property investment option.

Bright sides to Manila being 'abysmal'

By Noreen B. Salazar

IT CAN'T be all that bad, can it?

Manila, the capital of the Philippines, just recently received some sobering news. The last-in-city has just been ranked "below last" to "abysmal" by foreign property investors, according to the Emerging Trends in Real Estate Asia Pacific 2011 survey conducted by the Urban Land Institute (ULI).

The survey indicates that global real estate investors gave Manila a score of 4.56 points out of a possible 9. Topping the survey in the Asia-Pacific region was Singapore with a score of 8.06 points, followed by Shanghai with 6.87, Mumbai with 5.79 and Hong Kong with 5.78.

In general, the Philippines, says a source, has been suffering from a series of setbacks, some events leading to a negative image abroad, pre-empting investors in publicly listed real estate firms to bypass the country when it comes to deciding where to allocate their funds.

Stringent policy

Paul Vincent Chen, associate director for valuation and advisory services and head of consultancy and research of Colliers International, a leading global real estate services company, explained the country's stringent policy on foreign ownership of land is one possible deterrent for investors.

"The Philippines is one of the few countries in Asia where foreign land ownership is restricted to 40 percent."

Still, Chen said there were positive points to Manila as a property investment option. He urged the sector to look at the brighter side, particularly the lower rental rates compared to other Asia-Pacific countries.

"For the office sector alone, with 38 Asia-Pacific cities covered by Colliers International, Makati City has the third lowest rent, ranking No. 22 on the list with an average net rent of $21.46/square foot. The city that commands the highest rent, Hong Kong, has an average net rent of $165.91/square foot. That we looked at the capitalization rate on prime (grade A) office space, Makati ranked No. 2 with 8.75 percent, following No. 1 Mumbai with 10.8 percent."

Sufficient fund

Real estate education, engineer and consultant Isidro Rivera Cruz said that at present, the country's real estate industry does not need foreign investment to finance its real estate development.

He said the country's local investors and developers "have sufficient fund to finance the ongoing development and cope with the current demand.

"I do not see a scenario where develop, meet a lagging behind demand because of lack of development funds and as such will warrant need for foreign investments," Cruz said.

He added: "Maybe what we need are more foreign investors who will invest on a long-term basis in our real estate industry as owners and lessees. But even in this aspect, the volume of our local investors and end buyers are enough to sustain growth in our real estate industry."

Big factor

Cruz said "overseas Filipino workers' remittances, and its channeling to our real estate development projects as buyers' funding, is a big factor that has made our economy perform better than other countries."

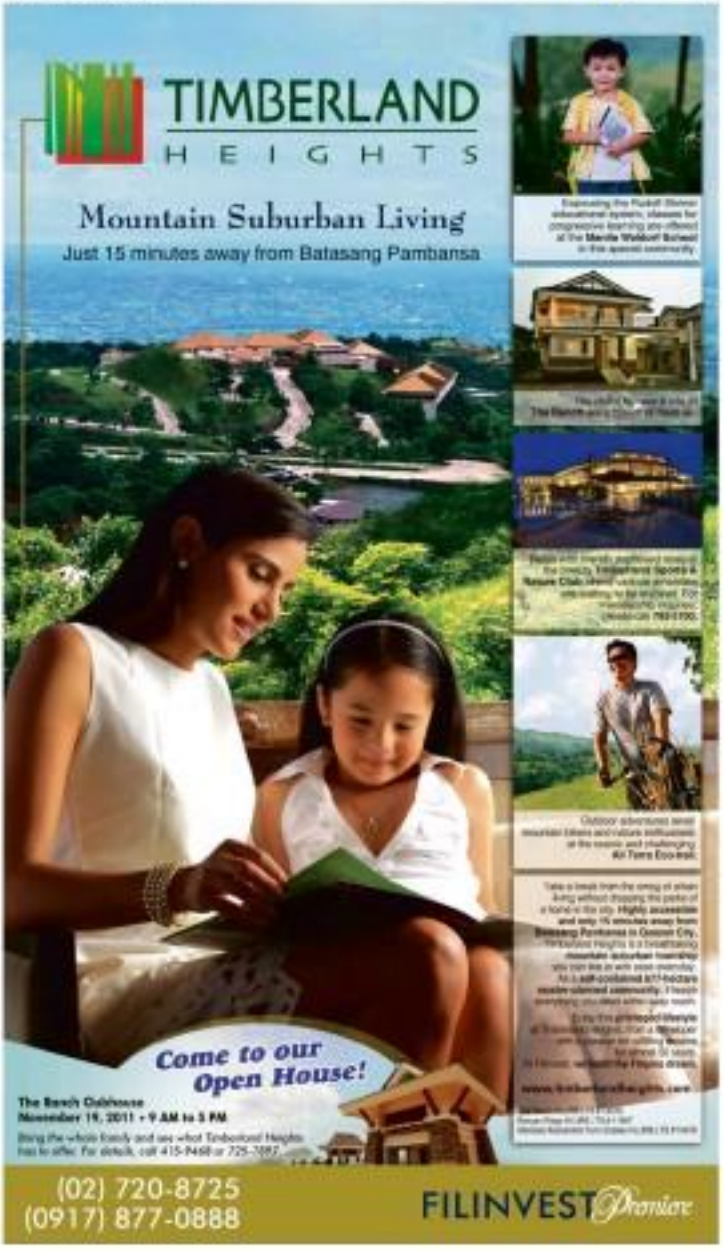
National Real Estate Association chair Alejandro S. Mafolabe quipped: "They must be referring to institutional investments. Well, that is something we have actually never been very strong on. Our promotions and campaigns for that were not as aggressive as our neighbors. In fact, recently on the same date, Dec. 6, Hong Kong will be hosting the forum on Emerging Trends in Real Estate in Asia and the Pacific while Kuala Lumpur will have the third annual Southeast Asia Institutional Investments forum."

Wake-up call

Enrique Soriano, professor at the Ateneo Graduate School of Business and senior advisor at Mapa+Soriano Business Advisory, quipped, "(The survey) is unfortunate, but a wake-up call for the stakeholders, including the present administration, that a collective and decisive push can be implemented."

He added: "For starters, the SIRT (Real Estate Investment Trust) law must now be implemented. Hong Kong, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia and our neighbors have significantly benefited from REIT implementing it will open more opportunities for investment," Soriano said.

He explained "we will see financial discipline, liquidity and access to capital in the sector. The added focus will be best practices on transparency and professionalism for well-managed assets. All these will contribute to the Philippines recovering in 2012."



SCIENCE/HEALTH

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New hope for patients with heart rhythm woes

By Charles E. Bahay

OUR HEART needs to beat steadily and rhythmically. However, because of abnormalities or damage to the heart's structure, this rhythm could be disrupted.

Such "glitch" in the heart's electrical system makes the upper chambers, also called the atria, to contract very fast and irregularly (fibrillate).

This causes the lower chambers or the ventricles to beat irregularly.

Atrial fibrillation is considered to be the precursor to various serious cardiovascular complications such as stroke as well as systemic embolism. In fact, the likelihood of stroke in patients suffering from atrial fibrillation increases by about five times.

Approval

Bayer HealthCare, the healthcare and medical products unit of German chemicals and pharmaceuticals giant, Bayer, announced the approval of once-daily rivaroxaban to reduce this risk of stroke and systemic embolism.

Rivaroxaban is currently the only orally taken anticoagulant—an agent used to prevent the formation of blood clots—approved by the United States' Food and Drug Administration to prevent patients with nonvalvular atrial fibrillation.

Bayer HealthCare added that rivaroxaban (Xarelto) is formulated to be taken once a day and that there is no need for routine blood coagulation testing, two important considerations when a patient is required to be on medication for longer period.

"As a commonly occurring cardiac rhythm disturbance, atrial fibrillation is gradually becoming an expensive medical ailment, placing a significant burden on hospitals, healthcare providers, and of course patients," said Reynaldo Custodio, Bayer Philippines' corporate communications manager.

Rivaroxaban is approved to reduce the risk of stroke and systemic embolism in patients with nonvalvular atrial fibrillation at a dose of 20 mg once daily, or 15 mg once daily for patients with moderate to severe renal impairment.

The FDA approval is based on the global clinical trial Rivaroxaban Once daily oral direct factor Xa inhibition Compared with vitamin K antagonism for prevention of stroke and Embolism Trial in Atrial fibrillation (Rocket AF) published this year in The New England Journal of Medicine.

Custodio noted that once approved here in the Philippines, doctors would be given some option to reduce stroke risk in patients who are living with atrial fibrillation, and the cumbersome threat of serious strokes.

Multiple medicines

Currently, patients with atrial fibrillation are required to take multiple medicines that may worsen complications as well as the risk of more if not serious side effects.

Atrial fibrillation affects more than 6 million people in Europe, more than 2.2 million people in the United States and more than 800,000 individuals in Japan.

Common conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes, and prior stroke, along with being over the age of 75, are factors that further increase the risk of stroke in people living with atrial fibrillation.

New treatment for atopic dermatitis sufferers

By Theresa S. Sarmiento

ITCHY not for an exhilarating and clinically accurate and other life-threatening illnesses.

But the discomfort, stigma and low quality of life that atopic dermatitis brings to a patient can be similarly worrisome and alarming.

According to Dr. Linda L. Varona, president, Philippine Society of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, atopic dermatitis is a chronic skin relapsing inflammation characterized by dryness of the skin, itching and burning sensation.

In a news briefing hosted by Inside, Varona explained that "atopic dermatitis belongs to a group of diseases with a genetic predisposition. Individuals with atopic dermatitis are more likely to develop other allergic conditions such as asthma and allergic rhinitis, a being a part of the allergic march," Varona added.

A very common condition which affects both males and females, atopic dermatitis may occur at any age, from infancy to elderly, regardless of ethnic and socio-economic class.

"Worldwide atopic dermatitis affects 3 to 20 percent of children. In the Philippines it is less than 10 percent and most of the reported cases of atopic dermatitis are pediatric," Varona noted.

"And while it is more common in industrialized country what is alarming is the increasing trend of incidence in the Philippines," Varona further noted.

Can affect quality of life

In the same briefing, Dr. Ma. Teresita G. Gabriel, president of Philippine Dermatological Society, meanwhile stressed how atopic dermatitis, though not to be considered a serious condition, can in reality greatly affect one's quality of living.

"Individuals with atopic dermatitis can't sum up to 'zero and a half' hours of sleep a night. Bothered by daily skin discomfort, children can have difficulties in school and risk into spells, while adults may develop problems at work and in the family," Gabriel added.

She further explained that there are periods when atopic dermatitis worsens, called exacerbations of flares, and periods when the affected skin improves or clears up entirely, called remissions.

"Atopic dermatitis is not a serious condition but it can have a very negative effect on a patient's quality of life," Gabriel said.

And since atopic dermatitis is fairly easy to diagnose and evaluate individuals are encouraged to have themselves examined as soon as they experience signs and symptoms of the disease.

According to both doctors, proper diagnosis, management and awareness of the disease could affect people suffering from atopic dermatitis a much better and comfortable condition.

"Key goals in the management of atopic dermatitis includes hydrating the skin, control of inflammation, relief of itch, eliminating infections and avoiding aggravating factors such as common environmental allergens and food among others," added Dr. Thomas Luger, director and chair of the Department of Dermatology at the University of Münster in Germany.

And to help Filipinos suffering from atopic dermatitis better manage their conditions, Inside Group Private Ltd., a leading pharmaceutical commercial-ization services company in Asia Pacific, recently launched Atopiclen.

Unique treatment

"Atopiclen is a unique, clinically proven, noncorticoid flare-remission treatment for atopic dermatitis. It has been used safely and clinically significant reductions in itch and also is the steroid for steroids to control flare-ups in adults and children over the age of six months," Inside claimed.

"With Atopiclen's unique triple mode of action, Filipino children and adults suffering from atopic dermatitis can now enjoy long-lasting relief from the chronic redness and inflammation caused by this common skin condition," the company added.

The unique Atopiclen formulation delivers a threefold action against atopic dermatitis acts as an anti-inflammatory, hydrates the skin and restores the skin's barrier function, and soothes itching rapidly.

The loving wife and sudden cardiac death

LAST MONTH, we were to the wake of a friend's wife. The wife was only 53 years old, who died in her sleep. Our friend could not believe it because she was a "superwoman," who did everything in the house, and felt no illness, let alone severe in doing all the house chores.

That evening she just complained of a vague chest discomfort and thought it was just due to fatigue. She should be back to her usual self when she wakes up in the morning, she told her husband as she kissed him good night. But didn't realize it was not a good night, but a goodbye kiss.

She was already lifeless in the morning when he tried to wake her up for breakfast.

Not isolated

Incidents like this are not isolated. We encounter it a little more frequently than what was previously believed in most outpatient in the clinic. Not infrequent scenario is that a heart doctor would be closely monitoring and treating the husband for heart disease only to learn later that the wife has succumbed to a heart attack or stroke or even sudden death.

All the time, the wife has been dutifully attending to the husband, buying his medicines, organizing them in plastic medicine containers so the hubby won't have difficulty nursing them out when he takes them. She accompanies her husband to the doctor's clinic, runs errands and to help Filipinos suffering from atopic dermatitis better manage their conditions, Inside Group Private Ltd., a leading pharmaceutical commercialization services company in Asia Pacific, recently launched Atopiclen.

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Study shows high-fiber diet may prevent colorectal cancer

By Tess R. Salazar

A HEALTHDAY News story last week reveals a new review that says eating a high-fiber diet may reduce your risk of colorectal cancer, especially if the fiber comes from cereal and whole grains.

Dutch researchers at Utrecht and Utrecht researchers analyzed 25 studies that involved a total of nearly 2 million people. "Compared with the lowest levels of fiber consumption, each 10-gram per day increase in intake of total dietary fiber and cereal fiber was associated with a 10 percent reduced risk of colorectal cancer," it also says consuming 90 grams more a day (three servings, or three and one-quarter ounces) of whole grains was associated with almost a 20 percent lower risk.

HealthDay News further added that researchers said a previous analysis did find that a high intake of fruits and vegetables was associated with a to-moderate reduction in risk, which suggests that components other than fiber in fruits and vegetables may play a role, the researchers said.

HealthDay News said the study appeared online Nov. 11 in a British Medical Journal.

Filipino diet

The typical Filipino diet, nutritionists note, lacks dietary fiber and is excessive in fat. This kind of diet, they say, increases the risk of bowel movement irregularities, hemorrhoids, diverticulosis and colorectal cancer.

Studies have also revealed that Filipino diet has been associated with degenerative diseases in the gall bladder and bowel cancer, a high-fiber plant-based diet, on the other hand, helps dilute, bind, inactivate and remove toxic substances and carcinogens in the food supply.

Dietary fiber refers to the edible parts of plants or carbohydrates that cannot be digested. Fiber is in all plant foods, including fruits, vegetables, grains, nuts, seeds and legumes, according to PAGRED. "Dietary fiber for consumption."

In the recent Senators Monday (Countdown) Lenten lunch at the Senate, Dr. Florentino Cardenas reported that in 2008 the Philippines had the lowest annual per capita intake of vegetables in Asia, with only 38 kg, as compared to China's 250 kg. When ranked according to each country's per capita intake of vegetables, the country fell below the lowest spot (the absolute bottom) from Africa (Rwanda-42 kg, Malawi-47 kg, and Ethiopia-35 kg).

Recommended intake

The World Health Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization expert consultation report on diet, nutrition and prevention of chronic diseases stated that the recommended intake should be a minimum 400 grams of fruits and vegetables per day (or 60 kg per year).

Approximately 1.7 million (2.8 percent) deaths worldwide are attributable to low fruit and vegetable consumption. Increasing fruit and vegetable intake to at least five servings a day can help prevent 14 percent of gastrointestinal cancer deaths, 11 percent of ischemic heart disease deaths and 9 percent of stroke deaths.

A high-fat diet particularly containing animal products has been associated to studies by experts with increasing the risk for a number of serious diseases.

"Normal protein intervention for levels of hormone IGF1 which is a risk factor for cancer, and high ease in. (The main protein for cow's milk) (Casein allows more carcinogens into cells, which allows more mutagenic reactions that give rise to cancer cells, which allows more rapid growth of tumors once they are initially formed," said T. Colin Campbell, Campbell is the Jacob Gould Schurman professor emeritus of Nutritional Biochemistry at Cornell University.

Monterrazas de Cebu home for true-blue Cebuanos

By Theresa S. Santiago

ARCHITECTS, being the brains and guide of every house development, play a strategic, crucial role in the success of every project that is built.

Their familiarity, knowledge and mastery of the area or the project site enable them to deliver structures that could truly suit and benefit future residents.

Proof of such is Ayala Land Development Corp.'s Monterrazas de Cebu, the luxurious child of fourfort-sister tandem Augusto and Margarita Villalon.

"Because we are from Cebu, we feel that we can do something good for the Cebuanos. We have this piece of land and we thought that we should develop it in a way that would make Cebu and us proud," explained Augusto Villalon, president of Cebu Civic Development, his e-mail briefing.

Monterrazas de Cebu is a 22.8-hectare property rising over a thousand feet above sea level. It is to date the largest of any mountainous mountain property available in the heart of Cebu City.

Cebu living

This project, according to Villalon, will afford future residents to enjoy the kind of living Cebuanos were accustomed to.

"Cebu living is very laid back and that's the kind of living experience we'd like to emphasize in the community. You can have it with all conveniences at your feet. We'll have two clubhouses, playgrounds, jogging trails etc. So everything that you need is there but without the sort of pressure that comes with Manila lifestyle," he explained.

"Everything is available and we will assure you peace, security, all the other amenities. We also have spent a lot to bury electrical wirings so you won't see wires, so it's really top-of-the-line living for Cebu," Villalon added.

"It's a 12- to 15-year project, and the vision is to eventually end up developing a township which means that you can live there," he shared.

"It will have townhouses, condominiums, school, hospital, shopping and work area. The idea really is to walk to work and make everything accessible," he further explained.

Monterrazas de Cebu will have an open plan but architects and owners are encouraged to look at tropical Filipino houses, particularly a special variation which, according to Villalon, can only be found in Cebu.

"Our service giving can equip banks to follow closest in Cebu are much more open, we have indoor and outdoor areas[—it's more] called like a barong Tagalog and that's the kind of thing that we'd like people to look into. They don't have to copy that but it's the idea," he said.

Cebuano-designed subdivision

Villalon also proudly shared that the project will be done by mostly Cebuanos around. Intro as he believes that it is much better to have a Cebuano-designed subdivision or development because they know the lifestyle of the people.

"It's our big aim, done by global Cebuanos in the Cebu market. We will only get consultants from Manila if that specialty is not available in Cebu, so we had to do that for just a few engineering specialties. It's because we truly believe that all of the talent is in Cebu," Villalon chimed.

In terms of design, construction and position, elevated lots and green maximum have been put into place. For instance, the development boasts a sound erosion control plan, featuring the use of core mats with reviver grass, which is said to be an effective ally against erosion in warmer climates, Villalon explained.

"Going green has always been part of the company's plans. We believe that preserving environmental concerns have become a vital component of urban planning, so we want to it that these are treated as key considerations in property development," he said.

The reviver grass, explained Villalon, will help stabilize the soil because it generally grows downward—from tree to four meters down—and its roots bind in the soil, which keeps them from getting dislodged.

"The reviver grass, with its ability to bind surface runoff by slowing water flow velocity and increasing soil absorption, also enhances effective flood mitigation and risk management," he explained.

Drainage control measure

Monterrazas de Cebu is also the first in the Philippines to make use of a detention pond system, a drainage control measure that further aids flood protection by temporarily storing excess runoff.

To help preserve the Monterrazas, residents are required to have rainwater tanks or cisterns in their homes as these encourage the harvesting of rainwater for reuse at reuse.

"Being an active part of the green revolution is Ayala's way of taking its corporate social responsibility beyond Metro Manila lifestyle to another level," he noted.

"By taking a holistic strategy that keeps in mind all necessary considerations, we are able to realize our vision of approaching urban development in a socially and environmentally sustainable manner, with an overall result that benefits both Metro Manila and the community members," Villalon concluded.

MONTERRAZAS de Cebu, an urban township that also owns 100 resource conscious, offering magnificent views of Cebu, Mactan and Bohol.

MONTERRAZAS features green open spaces and roads that have been designed to follow the land's original contours to preserve the area's natural beauty.

Seeing between the lines

THE LINE is probably the most underrated of all design elements. Often taken for granted, and yet not completely understood, it is the only thing that can delineate shape and give volume to form. In geometry it is used for measure, but in art it is considered an element and a most basic component of any artistic creation.

A line is a length without a width. It is an infinite set of points that extends or shortens in one direction, giving direction, intimating movement and creating forms from what could have been mere nothingness. It is a vital visual element in the world of aesthetics.

Lines define volume and weight from a drawing to sculpture. In three sculpture, lines breathe life into two-dimensional and three-dimensional objects. The lacunae and spatial openings formed by a curved and a line are what give form to their particular quality.

The traditional styles of a room—four walls, a floor and a ceiling—are defined by the corners where the surfaces intersect. Futuristic spaces are shaped by the surfaces that delineate their planes, and windows and door openings are defined by their frames or by the edges where their surfaces meet the surrounding planes or walls. In their normal usage, lines can be manipulative and can affect the way we perceive two and three-dimensional figures.

● Lines set direction. They lead our eyes onto a certain path. Think about the lines that run straight or curve and in doing, define the roadway being driven through. Our eyes are pulled forward as the lines extend beyond our field of vision. It matters very much what the lines that define the four corners of a hallway. They too, pull your eyes through, which is the reason lines in moving along the length of a space are convenient movement to the end of it, while those that traverse immediate suggest, or a slowing down. Horizontal lines are similarly as their vertical lines define the edges of the structures, thereby denoting our eyes upward to the sky.

● Lines imply movement. Lines that draw the eyes make an "implied" path. A line is said to contain length. It also makes an oblique that extended point as it signage or curves, closes up or requires downward, or motion. Axis and swaps. In forms that emphasize movement, lines are used in a multitude, like swells in the ocean or a pattern of soil, reading double lines. Similarly, the grains that run along a

STRONG lines add boldness and rhythm to the ceiling of the gym at The Enhancer at Legaspi Village.

A ZIG-ZAGGED zone the ceiling pulls the eyes and invites one to move into the space.

plank of timber with countless circles seem to move not only in the direction of its length, but appear to contribute along its width as well.

● Lines manipulate mass. In a pattern or a design, applied lines that are widely spaced and thin create large patterns, make a surface or form appear small, and the surrounding space, bigger. This have that effect on floors, smaller tiles seem to stretch a surface, and expand space, while larger ones make a space appear smaller. Lines can also define the size of other elements around it. The grid of windows on a building's façade, gives one a sense of the floor to-floor height, which in turn approximates the width of the building's face.

● Lines help determine depth. Lines recede and become thinner as they project into a perspective, thereby making depth measurable by estimation. This is how one is able to tell how far down the hallway the door of a hotel room is—the other doors that precede it are smaller and appear closer. Also, lines that become closer and denser as they lie further.

● Lines express texture. Used extensively, lines can create a monotonous or fine-tune to a surface. The kind of tactile sensations generated by the eye dictates the quality of the surface. Remember that lines have no depth, so we are talking about perceived visual texture rather than real, tactile texture. Thus, more can mean that one needs other materials or even other forms. A multiplicity of horizontal and vertical lines may denote a woven texture, whether they were applied on an expansive veneer wall, or in a large natural stone. Diagonal lines evoke the texture of an organized natural work; in varying curves, they feel like tiny ripples.

Lines express themselves sensibly in our everyday design experiences, camouflaged in the existence of these other design elements. Seeing can be seen by the eye until it is defined into a shape or form by the line. Without it, we will merely have a point afloat in space.

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DESIGN DIMENSIONS

Ezekiel Bernigner
Architect

HUMVEST Technology Park

CIUDAD DE CALAMBA

Complete community amid natural beauty

LAGUNA HAS seen an economic boom in recent years, as its natural beauty and resettle location have made it an ideal place to build new homes and commercial centers away from the city. It is for this reason property developer Filinvest launched its development in Calamba, site of Laguna's many scenic cities.

Ciudad de Calamba promises to offer the best of suburban living while incorporating the comforts of city dwelling. A sprawling 300-hectare township, Ciudad de Calamba combines residential, commercial and industrial areas to provide a self-contained community full of endless opportunities for residents.

Variety of haven

Ciudad de Calamba comes with a variety of exciting havens. Aldea Real, a Spanish-Mediterranean-themed home, has features that fashion classic Iloilo reminiscent of Roman or Hispanic.

Meanwhile, the Roman Mediterranean Prima dioxine has features that fashion classic Iloilo reminiscent of Roman or Hispanic.

Those who are into Asian-inspired Orient may choose Montebello that occupies 18.19 hectares and boasts landscaped main park and pocket parks.

All residential developments within Ciudad de Calamba provide amenities such as a community clubhouse, swimming pool, basketball court and children's playground.

Adding to the growing community within the township is a commercial hub called Aseras Village. Offering aspiring entrepreneurs the perfect venue to build their dream business, Aseras Village offers space for shops to sell various products or services.

Filinvest Technology Park-Calamba, also found within Ciudad de Calamba, is a 50-hectare-registered economic zone that caters to light and medium industries and businesses. It can accommodate area requirements for small (1,500 to 2,999 square meters), medium (3,000 to 6,000 sq m) large (1 hectare and up) industries.

Filinvest Technology Park readily provides the necessary utilities and infrastructure needed for license occupancy and operations.

Ciudad de Calamba is highly accessible to both private and public vehicles. The entrance to the property is just minutes away from the Barrios exit of the South Luzon Expressway as well as hospitals, shopping malls and schools.

Security residents proved a priority as guard houses are available at the entrance and exit areas as well as in Filinvest Technology Park. Roving guards do a round-the-clock check of the premises to ensure safety within the township.

Many benefits

To discover the many benefits of having your business established in Filinvest Technology Park, an investor's night was held recently at The Palms Country Club.

Ciudad de Calamba is spearheading development of Filinvest, a leader in property development for over 50 years.

Filinvest is committed to making the Filipino's dreams to have a home of their own come true. Guided by the business mandate of targeting quality and service, it forges ahead with renewed dynamism.

Beyond building homes and communities for Filipino families, Filinvest's commitment to nation-building comes when it pushes the limits of building dreams for the Filipino.

Lancaster Estates' Leighton Hall inaugurated

LEIGHTON HALL, the clubhouse of Lancaster Estates, was inaugurated recently with a crowd of close to 2,000 people. The blessing of the 3-storey Spanish-hall was officiated by Fr. Raul de Leon while the ribbon-cutting was led by Pro-Friends president Jocelyn Ventanas and Vice Mayor Gilbert Castillo of Kawit, Cavite.

The name Leighton Hall is in keeping with Lancaster Estates' English-inspired concept. The clubhouse has a spacious ground floor lobby that can accommodate up to 500 guests and houses the soon-to-open coffee shop. The sale and estate management offices are also located in the ground floor.

The second floor can accommodate up to 100 persons while the third floor is a wide open-venue good for up to 500 guests. The second and third floor function rooms are equipped with air-conditioning units and sound-PA systems. The swimming pool area is complete with umbrella-type tables and lounge chairs for sunbathing.

Lancaster Estates is one of Pro-Friends' 36 ongoing developments. A British-inspired project with a mix of spacious townhouses and single-attached houses, this development has a taste of the English countryside lifestyle. It was designed to be run down-to-earth amenities such as a country club, church, a school and a commercial center for the convenience of residents.

The projects offer the best value-for-money houses with different house and lot packages. Imagine living inside a gated community complete with lifestyle amenities, coming home to a 3-bedroom house for an investment of less than a million.

Pro-Friends, (www.profriends.com), is

LEIGHTON Hall

one of the country's fastest growing real estate developers known for their property developments in Cavite and Bulacan. They are the developer of Lancaster Estates and Bellefort Estates in Cavite and Montecello Villas in Iloilo. The company has 36 ongoing projects and 52 completed and successful communities.

Editor Cesar D. Manzanero

PROPERTY

Experience Rockwell magic at The Grove

By Tiarnes S. Sensaringo

THE MASTERPIECES of Amorsolo, Joya, Luna and Manansala have since been considered as the crown jewels in the world of Philippine visual art.

These contributions are undeniably significant and immeasurable to say the least—as much so that their artworks, even in today's digital age, remained most coveted and revered.

However, the steep prices that such piece commands make it impossible for every Filipino to own one. Thus, leaving most of us to just wanting and admiring from afar.

Perhaps, the same can be said of Rockwell Land Corp.

Aptly named after those famed Filipino artists, every condominium development of Rockwell similarly consists of exclusivity, luxury and premium quality, with an end target to continuously redefine the concept of Filipino living.

"Owning a Rockwell property has ever become more of a badge," shared Rockwell Land senior marketing manager Vivian C. Tiongkiao.

The notion of a Rockwell unit being more than just a living space, Tiongkiao added, stemmed from the solid reputation that the company has established over the past 16 years and the will to deliver projects that fuse together the benchmark of comfortable and upscale living.

And truly, not like anything that is considered premium makes the facades of our Makati of Artists, a Rockwell development stand at a steep price.

THE GROVE is a 30-year-old Rockwell as it continues to prove its ingenuity when it comes to redefining the concept of modern condo living.

Friendlier rates

The good news, however, is that Rockwell Land, through one of its latest developments which is The Grove, is giving people a greater chance of experiencing the "100-percent Rockwell" living experience, but with rates at friendlier terms.

"For P7,000 a month one can enjoy the comfort and upscale living Rockwell has been known for," Rockwell officials said.

"With The Grove, we promise to give them the comfort and Rockwell lifestyle that we are known for. Buyers are sure to experience the same convenience, quality and exclusivity that is synonymous to all our developments," they further claimed.

Wise, intelligent investment

Located on C5 road, The Grove, which is Rockwell Land's first residential enclave outside Makati, is considered a smart—a wise and intelligent investment, especially for first-time homebuyers.

"When you're making a major investment, especially if it's your first, you would want to get the best value for your money and The Grove promises to give you that," Rockwell officials said.

"Some thing goes for investors. Every Rockwell property continues to increase in value over time as when the time comes that you need to be liquid, you can easily do it with any of your Rockwell acquired property," they added.

The Grove's strategic location, which is minutes away from the Ortigas business district, hospitals, schools, business establishments and other places of interests also makes it a premium investment.

Aside from that, The Grove likewise boasts a 75:25 open landscaped to building ratio, which is very much essential to Rockwell's commitment to provide utmost convenience in its tenants.

"We are not just here for the profit. In fact what was originally planned as an eight-tower development has been trimmed down to six to give residents more space to move. These two towers could have allowed us to offer more units and a better profit margin but we didn't want to sacrifice the comfort of our soon owners," the officials explained.

"The number of units in every floor has also been limited and regulated in manner that there will be no cramped corners. We have set up four elevators for every tower to guarantee that waiting time would be short," they added.

Same building standards

And despite it being priced more affordably, The Grove, according to the officials, followed the same building standards to preserve Rockwell prestige had.

"The quality of the finishes and the integrity of the structure is the same as the ones that we have here in Rockwell. Our stringent quality control with our contractors ensures the integrity of the units that we deliver. We make sure that every concern is inspected and every little problem addressed," they noted.

Being a Rockwell development, The Grove will also be enforcing the same security and property management that they adhered their residents.

"For the amenities, we will have the same facilities for The Grove. There will be the usual pool, gym, fitness studios and all the other amenities one might need to complete that Rockwell lifestyle," they explained.

"Also, we guarantee that after sales service will be available to our tenants whenever they need it," officials assured that our relationship with them doesn't just end with the selling process as we will be there to address their concerns, even after the units have been turnovered," Rockwell officials concluded.

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A Damned good time with Chuck Palahniuk

Americanfiction's most brilliant troublemaker

He announces before his book reading: 'The world is full of countless beautiful lovely funny eloquent profound stories—but tonight won't necessarily be'

By Pari Pastor
Photos by JR Lejano

STRANGERS, it was Survivor—and not Fight Club—that became my gateway to the cult of Chuck Palahniuk.

And what's even stranger is that it wasn't a book but an audio book that got me hooked. Before Boracay, I had never been able to force myself to listen to an audio book in its entirety. But Chuck Palahniuk for you—his words just grip you, the way a novel is meant to.

Soon, I was picking up every book he's come out with. Lullaby. Invisible Monsters. Rant. Diary. Choke. Snuff. Pygmy. Fight Club.

A master of transgressive fiction and satirical horror stories, Chuck isn't for everyone. His writing, a cerebrally wet fix for the brain freaks and the easily offended. They call him "American Britain's most brilliant troublemaker" for good reason.

Chuck has legions of fans in all corners of the world. Most are devoted they'll no-questions-from-the-border-all over their bodies, how we remember they create elaborate artworks inspired by him. How we hope they strive for issues just to go to his readings.

It's official...I've become one of them. I have yet to take a tattoo to my skin but I did fly over 8,000 miles to see him.

New York stop

I bought my ticket for his reading at Cooper Union in Manhattan's East Village before I even left Manila.

Cooper Union's Great Hall, which has witnessed the speeches of great American historical figures like Abraham Lincoln, William Howard Taft, Bill Clinton and Barack Obama, was the

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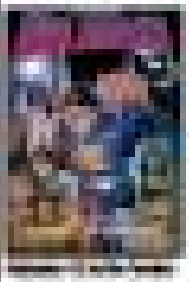

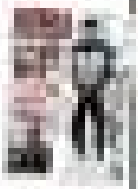

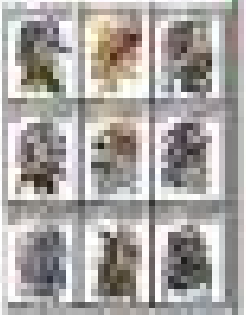

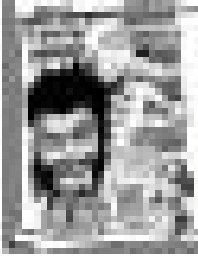

A Damned g
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Five things you should know about Chuck Palahniuk

rting until I was 33'

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LIFESTYLE Travel

What Ate Vi gave me on her birthday holiday

We got stuck 9,000 feet above the ground, in the cable lines. That was when the real adventure began

SOUVENIR photo with "Dumbo" (left) birthday girl greeted in bed by her loved ones

By Raymund Isaac
Contributor

I WAS excited to see a good friend of mine in Malaysia to celebrate her birthday with her family and to celebrate Ate Aida's birthday, too.

The only time I have been to Malaysia was on a cruise via Star Cruises, passing through Penang. So finally a trip to see Kuala Lumpur and Genting became a reality.

Even if I was spending only two nights with the Hizon family, I welcomed the chance, and the break from the stress of Manila.

Vilma, Ralph, and Ilyan planned to celebrate her

MORE D2

Sardinia: Fresh seafood and the Pecorino cheese Frank Sinatra lusted for

Its name, Fabrizio stressed, has nothing to do with sardines

By Norma D. Chiklanova

(CLOCKWISE, from above) Zuppa di Pesce alla Sarda (Sardinian fish soup); Slow-Roasted Rack of Lamb with Pecorino Gnocchi; Sanbas, traditional Sardinian three-layer cake with grated Pecorino cheese; Conti's wine from Sardinia

IN THE TIME they were serving the first course in Hotel Intercontinental's Prince Albert Restaurant, my dining companions and I were all dreaming of going to Sardinia. Words were rendered unusable, considering the way Italian wine expert, Fabrizio Mennella Cavanagh of Mennella Group Italy, had just described his hometown.

The second largest island in Italy, Sardinia lies right in the Mediterranean Sea and is blessed with sunny weather and fertile soil. Its vineyards have produced some of the best, award-winning wines such as the Cannisi wines that were about to be served at our table.

"Sardinia is different from the rest of Italy," Fabrizio emphasized, one reason being its delicious **been the area of the Italian** peninsula.

Sharing with its wine-producing **vineyards, Sardinia has rich pas**tureland where sheep and goats **are grazed consistently. Sheep**'s milk and other forms grow in abundance and therefore have a very strong presence in Sardinian cuisine.

A favorite ingredient in Sardinian meals is Pecorino cheese, which is made from sheep's milk.

It's stuffed into pasta, sprinkled in soups and is even used in desserts.

The story goes that when the American singer Frank Sinatra tasted a slice of Sardinian Pecorino cheese, he immediately ordered that a wheel of the cheese be shipped every week to his home in New York City. As far as Sardinia knows, Sinatra's request was followed faithfully; the wheel of Pecorino cheese shipped weekly to New York via DHL.

Likewise the Sardinians are very proud of their tomatoes. "It is juicier and sweeter than other tomatoes," Fabrizio said, and it's something Italy's northern cities have to import from Sardinia since tomatoes don't naturally grow in their land. Luckily this is in the Philippines, Fabrizio now imports canned Sardinian tomatoes to Manila under the brand name Gioia.

Sardinia's proximity to the sea has also made seafood a mainstay in the people's cuisine. Aside from the endless tuna, eel and scallops, Sardinia is famous for bottarga, the fish roe sometimes referred to as Sardinian caviar.

On the other hand, Sardinians also know how to enjoy their meats. One of their festive dishes entails filling pigs rubbed with herbs such as mint and myrtle then roasted in a spit, much like the Filipino *lechon*. Sometimes shepherds would dig into the soil, place the pig in the cavern, then cover the ground with charcoal and let the heat of the charcoal slow-cook the pig. It's somewhat like roasting the pig in a makeshift oven dug out of the earth.

Despite the languid life in the islands, the traditional Sardinian cuisine is a culinary journey. Some dishes, Fabrizio said, That's because preparation is laborious, involving long, tedious hours and a battalion of ingredients.

He remembers sitting down in family meals that would last six hours. First there would be platters of olives, cold cuts and seafood appetizers. Then there would be pasta, lobsters, other types of seafood and three versions of gnocchi made from durum wheat.

Dessert would be just as lavish, and, of course, all of these would be accompanied by the appropriate varieties of their beloved Sardinian wines.

One lunch at Prince Albert that afternoon didn't last that long but it was enough to give me a sumptuous taste of Sardinian cuisine. We started with Muller and Scallop Ceviche, mullet being a prized fish in the islands.

Unlike other kinds of ceviche, both the fish and the scallops were cooked prior to vinegar but in lemon juice, which was probably why its sourness was subtler and not as acidic.

Next came the Zuppa di Pesce alla Sarda with fennel, a soup of mild seafood broth, with mussels, fish fillets and cherry cuttlefish with bits of tomatoes. Grilled Pecorino cheese added a much welcomed layer of flavor. Based on the recipe of Fabrizio's mother, it was soothing even on a warm, sunny day.

Our main course was Slow-Roasted Rack of Lamb that had been marinated in garlic and rosemary, decorated with stalks of tarragon flowers. Imported from Australia (not Sardinia), the lamb had a very clean taste that was flavorful enough as it is still, although the surrounding tangerine zest somehow increased its sweetness.

Encircling the lamb were gnocchi, cooked in a slightly crunchy texture and stuffed with grated Pecorino cheese. The flavor combination of cheese and pears was so rich and pleasing that it could very well stand up to the sweetness of the lamb.

It's a good thing I like the mild (not sharp) flavor of Pecorino cheese because it was present in the dessert, as a filling for the sticky leaves called bondas. Laced with honey and candied lemon peel, *bondas* are a traditional Sardinian dessert. The version served at Prince Albert, however, embellished it with pastry garnishes of transparent sugar sheets that resembled bubble wraps, fresh strawberry slices and swirls of chocolate.

The people of Sardinia are reputed to have long life spans, with more centenarians living there than in any other Italian region. If this is the way the Sardinians eat, no wonder they live to be a hundred.

For more food stories and recipes, visit author's blog: www.normachiklanova.com, or Facebook fan page: www.facebook.com/normachiklanova.

Until Nov. 30, Prince Albert Restaurant at Hotel Intercontinental is serving a four-course meal of Sardinian cuisine with award-winning Sardinian wines at lunch and dinner for P2,500++ per person. On Nov. 26, Italian winemaker Lorenzo Zonin will be present to discuss the merits of the featured wines. A four-course set dinner menu will wine pairing will be offered at P1,500 net per person, inclusive of welcome drink at 7 pm. Dinner follows at 7:30 pm. Call 793-7000 for reservations.

What Ate Vi gave me on her birthday holiday

From page B1

(CLOCKWISE) Vi Alforque at the entrance of Phuket Fantasia park; (above) riding the elephants

AFTER a nervous ride in the cable car (above) admiring dinner the **Tee birthday**

INSTANT of the famous Petronas tower in KL; (left, above) at a market in Thailand. Imagine this scenario in a public market here.

birthday to be outside the country this time, instead of the usual dinner in her house.

Of course, my family, me, Ali, and Sonny Pitt's brother, plus six teenage girl friends and friends, were in tow. I wanted to be in Phuket with them for their first stop, but work in Manila prevented me from joining them; I caught up with them in Malaysia.

I missed out on the adventures in Phuket where, I was told, the group rode elephants through the jungle and, on another day, the boys went on a fishing expedition, while the girls had their retail therapy. On the eve of Mi**nel's birthday, they had a formal** dinner where Ralph surprised **her with diamond necklace and** earrings. When I ask how much the jewelry was, all I got was the answer, "You can never put a price tag on love."

After a week in Phuket, the group flew to Malaysia. Genting is a mountain resort an hour away from Kuala Lumpur, and the highest peak of the mountain resort houses a complex under the wings of Resorts World. We got a suite, courtesy of Ralph.

But Vilma and the crew opted for a more quiet vacation, so they stayed at the mid-levels of the mountain at Awana Golf Resort. I was unfortunate to have the only available room left in the Fine Hotel. Little did I know I was getting at the peak of a holiday in Malaysia, and I was greeted by hordes and hordes of tourists as the exception, making me claustrophobic. That's how crowded Genting Highlands was that day.

Vilma and the girls called me up after I waited two hours for my room. They were excited to give me a tour of the complex, which was literally a mini within a mini. Each hotel—I know of at least four—are connected to a labyrinth of pathways to food malls, shopping areas, casinos, a theme park, and theaters.

They found me amused, and showed me a hotel's china apply called "Food for the Beasts". we all joked that it was named after my favorite vegetable, kangkong.

Shopping is the same story. Initially only a few recognized but had their photos taken with her. When we sat down in a coffee shop, however, we realized that the number of fans and sights was growing. The mood became a photo-op, and her anonymity was gone. I joined the fray and we all made new friends in the end.

Bidding seemed to bother Vi, as she was on vacation mode. She obviously knew how it is to be a celebrity, but still, I was impressed with how patient she was in dealing with different people. She would even ask people who worked there how they were, and if life was good in Kuala Lumpur. She genuinely cared.

As usual, we lost track of time and were a little late for the show. So back to running. We all ended famished and just ate at Awana.

It was getting late, and I had to pack for my flight the next day. I had to travel there more commute to my hotel, so I said my goodbyes.

As I was about to leave, Ian Vi offered to take me back to my hotel via the cable car. And that was where the real adventure began.

We got stuck 1,000 feet above the ground, in the cable lines. I videotaped it, and will show it in my podcast. Admittedly behind My Love (http://subwaytunesbehindmybrain.com), available in iTunes, too. I suggest you wait to see how we survived. I watched the video for the 58th time today and I still die of laughter over the fear.

After two nights I had to fly back to Manila, my already missing the group. Those two days with them left me a valuable lesson. Vilma has been a public figure all her life. Going to the mall, dining on the sidewalk, eating in a carinderia, even buying street food and things are code for guarded. But for Vi, these things are precious moments.

Some say that loss of privacy is a small price to pay for fame and fortune, but let me tell you that her life has not been all those and more. It's years of work, integrity, and sacrifice. Some people would trade places with her in an instant, but if you knew how she got to where she is now, you would wonder how she ever endured such a life.

She has had really low points in her life. Life is hard enough but it becomes even harder when one is always under microscopic scrutiny. Seeing her enjoy the simple things makes me appreciate the things I take for granted.

Funny that even when I flew to Malaysia, I was wondering the birthday gift I could give someone who has everything—only to realize that it was the who gave me something instead. The gift of insight.

Hotel expo set in Macau Nov. 23-25

MACAU is staging the 17th International Hotel Expo Nov. 23-25 at The Venetian Macao.

Companies from around the world are expected to participate in the three-day event that showcases the latest in hotel technology, design and supplies.

Among the features and highlights are the Hotel General Manager's Forum, Spa & Wellness Forum, and the Seminar on Corporation Between Hotels and MICE.

The Macao Experience presents a unique event for the hotel industry to facilitate business and cooperation among professional hotel people, who share best practices and explore various ways for hotel-based events to their full potential.

Both old friends and newcomers to the business will get a chance to familiarize themselves with Macao's impressive offerings, hotel equipment and operation that they require.

Hosting the international hotel expo, which is strongly supported by the state, is part of Macau's efforts to be the World Tourism and Leisure Hub. The country's unique culture, as well as blend of east and west, and its rich cuisine and world-class attractions offers you the advantage to be one of the hottest hotel destinations in Asia.

For information, log on to www.hotelexhibition.com.

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Bohol offers unsaddled travelers for the adventurous to enjoy. Get off to Balicasag Island and Virgin Island for snorkeling, diving, and dolphin watching. Visit the majestic Chocolate Hills, see the tarsier, which is among the world's smallest primates, and take a Loboc River cruise, to where you can find Filipino cuisine, music and entertainment.

"People say it's the sea Boracay, but we believe that its beauty and attractions are within reach," says Jett Hontiveros, Airphil Express Sr. Officer Marketing and Sales. "The airline makes it easy for Filipinos to experience Bohol firsthand, and at the same time, this helping support local tourism."

Airphil Express flies daily from Manila to Tagbilaran at 9:40 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 3 p.m., and leaves Tagbilaran for Manila daily at 11:05 a.m., 5:15 p.m., and 6:40 p.m. Or those who prefer trips have another point in the country, get on Airphil Express' flight to Cebu where you can catch a ferry to Bohol.

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Travel Briefs

Get more than R&R on a Tagaytay family getaway

For those celebrating on 8 and 9 Wed weekend, Tagaytay Highlands offers leisure enthusiasts, making it a not-to-miss itinerary.

The Discovery Club and Sports Center adds to the recreational atmosphere. Apart from getting closer to the wonders of Mother Nature, the family is offered numerous physical, indoor and outdoor activities, as well as numerous recreation services and amenities.

Residents, club and fee-paying customers, Tagaytay Highlands' own Tagaytay Highlands Golf Course, Tagaytay Highlands' boasts of its Series-engineered saddle-back fairly one through the course, and the Tagaytay Highlands Golf Club, which has the country's only 36-hole tournament centers.

Rizal's club is filled with relaxing and pampering at the luxurious Spa and Lounge, where a stylist is an authority, ing colors, with a rich range of spa facilities.

Meanwhile, sportier teenagers can explore the wide array of outdoor activities such as paintball, hiking trails, swimming, and go-carting, or indoor games like squash, tennis, basketball, and bowling activities or swimming.

Tagaytay Highlands also offers a unique culinary journey that allows the family to taste a little bit of almost everything in the world with more than 30 food and beverage outlets.

At the end of the day, families can retreat into Tagaytay Highlands homes where they can just unwind.

Tagaytay Highlands is definitely a perfect destination for a great weekend treat. Call Bella Cruz at tel. nos. 633-2040 or 403917-18 ext. 8112, or visit their office at Unit 2008 East Tower Philippine Stock Exchange Centre, Exchange Road, Ortigas Center Pasig City, 1605, Philippines.

International bazaar on Nov. 20

Visit the International Bazaar, an annual event hosted by the International Buyer Foundation Inc., 2000 Inc. Box 20, 8 a.m.–7 p.m., at the PICC Forums 1, 2 and 3, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City. Tickets are sold at the IBF office, 5/F, 2000 Department of Foreign Affairs Bldg., Roxas Blvd., Pasay. Tickets holders Senate Ave., Bilibid Alabang from Cubao Aviation St., Fairbus or the event itself. Call 8331535 or e-mail at ibf@gmail.

CABLE cars traversing the clubhouse at Tagaytay Highlands.

Serendipity in Sarangani

UNEXPECTED WINDS. That's what guests will see when they visit the serene province of Sarangani as it celebrates its 18th Foundation Anniversary and 9th Moncih Festival Nov. 24-27.

Sarangani Gov. Miguel Rene Dominguez said Moncih's was derived from the vernacular "tumong mo" or early inhabitants, who passed on a rich cultural heritage to the people of the province.

Festivities opened on Nov. 24 with the Panagtigum (Opening Ceremonies), where outstanding Sarangani will be listed, including eight-division boxing champ and Sarangani congressman Manny Pacquiao, who has just successfully defended his WBO welterweight belt.

Events shift to high gear with the Monstercross Challenge on Nov. 26; the Mountain Bike Downhill Challenge at the SMT Ranch in Maasim; and the Investor Classic Shootout Competition on Nov. 27.

The 1st Eco-Trek Amapan-Wato falls to Alabel-Kiko off on Nov. 26-27, which will include rare planting and community activities.

Carved out of South Cotabato in 1992 by virtue of Republic Act 7228, Sarangani is a vital component of the Soccsksargen growth corridor, with its vibrant fishing and agro-industrial sectors.

Sarangani can be reached via General Santos City Airport and a 15-minute drive to the capital town of Alabel.

(FROM top) Bi'san traditional weaving in Malapatan; (Photo) by street dancing; white water raising adventure in Maitum; Amapan Falls in Alabel; Sumasa Beach in Glan

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Coron: Alone in paradise —with Pedring

Or, why vacationing solo on a beautiful tropical island doesn't have to be a bad thing

By Alya B. Herman

"WELCOME to Paradise," said Dirk Fahrenbach to me with a smile—a wonderful welcome, except that at that moment, as we stood in front of Dirk's well-equipped Dugong Dive Center at Club Paradise Resort on Dimakya Island in northern Palawan, Typhoon "Pedring's" violent howls were drowning out the conversation.

Still, Dirk, a veteran dive instructor originally from Cologne, Germany who has been running his dive center here since 1997, was cool and relaxed: "Oh, go check out the house reef. It won't be a problem at all."

I was here for some solo diving and recharging, but I had begun to wonder if it was a bad idea when my flight from Coron, Busuanga, was continually turbulent. Turns out that one was the last flight that got in before Pedring hit and the airport closed. I had intended hopeful for some sea diving, my pleasant solo from the jet port to the Dimakya Divers, where a big, comfy bear filled with towels was waiting, and I could see lovely Dimakya in the distance.

Then it had begun in jest. By the time I landed on the dazzling white private beach, the solitary CONQUEST guest, I was drenched in my pants.

Still, after I had eaten and checked in to my comfy little beachfront cottage, with its fabulous view of the sea, Manila, my dive master, asked what time I wanted to do my first dive. Yup, life goes on in paradise.

Club Paradise has been around for over 30 years, so they're obviously doing it right—and that includes existing in harmony with nature. In fact, only about 35 percent of the 19-hectare island has been developed for the resort. You can still hike up to a lookout and look out for a resident eagle, search for primary to a preserved mangrove, and have hefty monitor lizards nonchalantly crossing your path in the middle of the day.

Within a couple of hours of my arrival, I had passed up and walked into the water to see the island's famous house reef. "We have regular visitors who just stay here and dive the house reef all the time," Dirk said.

He recounts how he had been running a dive facility in the Maldives for seven years when he was invited to set up in Dimakya.

Coming to Dirk a meeting, he had time for only one dive—and saw five turtles, a school of jacks, and a dugong in his crew. "That pretty much sealed the deal for me," he says with a laugh.

The charismatic, outspoken dugong (Dugong dugon) is the flagship animal in this part of Palawan, and although I didn't see one—maybe they got spooked by Pedring, too—Dirk says they are entered by sea every month, feeding on the seagrass and staying anywhere from half a day to two days.

10 kg of food a day

These gentle, adorable animals, which can grow up to three meters in length and weigh some 400 kg (one would, if you ate 30 kg of food a day!), were the focus of a conservation project of the Kalikasan ng Palawan (KEP) now the Bantay Wildlife Patrol for Nature-Philippines) from 1996 to 2007.

In fact, the dugong has brought Dirk not just adventure, but also love; he met his Filipina wife, Janet Ori on Dimakya, when she was working on the project for KEP.

Above four different individuals—including a friendly male named Pancake—regularly visit Dimakya. And with his evident love for conservation, Dirk runs his popular dugong-searching tours, where people sit for a briefing before taking off on a comfortable boat to island-hop, in search of the creatures. The probability of seeing one: A high 80 percent, according to Dirk's records. And when they do spot one, nobody moves a muscle while he cuts and a feeding.

In between sightings, these cozy dugong-watching tour can attached or separate in a dive or two in some nearby sites that Dirk and local divemasters have discovered, some one to two hours away by boat. Divers staying longer can book excursions to the 400-foot Montrel Park in Mindoro, only about three hours away by boat.

Back to my first dive: Beneath the churning waves, five-seven-was warm, quiet, and current-free, a rare escape in 95 minutes, going no deeper than a leisurely 65 feet, we spotted a green turtle with hitchhiking remora—Club Paradise's beach is crossing site for green turtles—as well as several blue-spotted stingray and some of the biggest parrots I had ever seen, prowling from their holes on the ocean floor. It was a great welcome to the sea.

The next day, Dirking had turned the dark shades on my veranda upside down and thrown my slippers several meters away. I imagined what chaos was happening in Manila while I sat and watched as neighboring Coron Island played peek-a-boo behind the ocean clouds.

I had forgotten how a stressed-out city person could actually sit and stare at the waves for hours, between napping, reading a good book (no cable TV here, yipee!), and eating.

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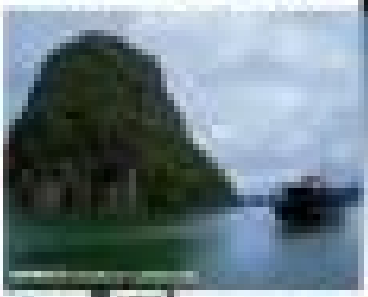
NOW OPEN

Actually a scene from a famous movie, this Unesco Heritage site is a bewitching experience



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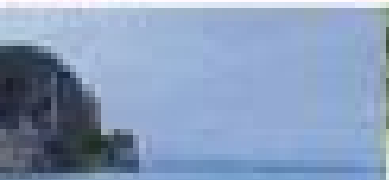


CLUB Paradise's cozy beachfront cottages

Coron: Alone in paradise . . .

From page E3

writing in a journal, and occasionally getting driven by hunger pangs to the buffet table.

The best part was, the staff was friendly and attentive, but knew well enough to leave a guest alone. The housekeepers were walked by more quietly when they saw me standing on my head or my verandah!

Childhood games and shipwrecks

By the late afternoon, a hot cleared enough for a walk on the beach, and a favorite childhood game: Sizing on the shore and waiting for the waves to rush in and push you around. Even the waves of Moalboal aren't exhilarating can look beautiful in a place like this.

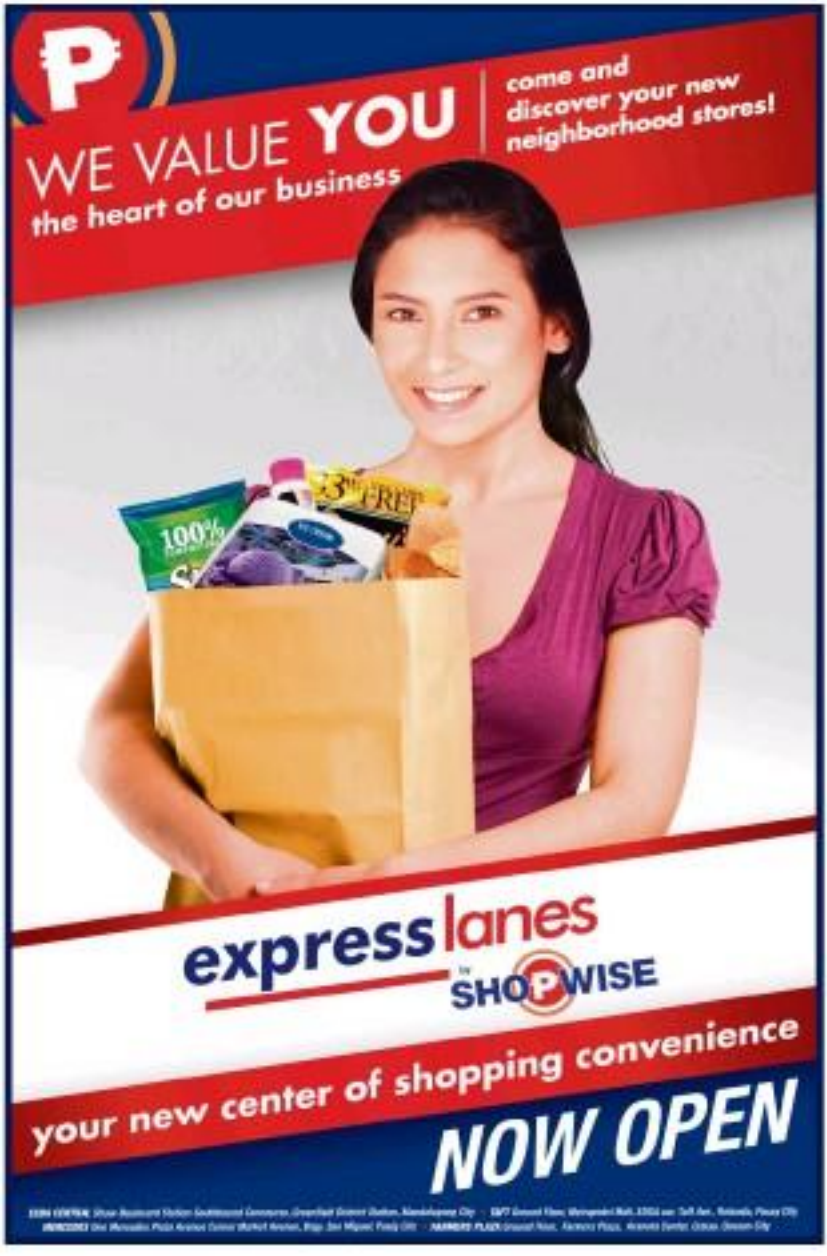
The next day, Rosalie, a dive boat of ours, and Marvin was raring to take me to another of Coron's main diving attractions: A shipwreck. For scuba divers, Coron's shipwrecks become, with several World War II Japanese supply ships sinking near to explore in the waters between Busuanga and Coron Island.

Some time before dawn on Sept. 24, 1944, American fighter planes had bombed and sank several of these ships, which had taken refuge there the fighting on Manila, in the Battle of Coron Bay. Several have been discovered and are now, like to-dives for a real underwater history lesson. "Wreck diving is like exploring an underwater museum," says Rick.

One wreck, however, the "Kyokusan Maru," seems to have found itself on the other side of Coron. It's an 140 ft at its deepest, close to Dimakya Island (then, it is also called the Dimakya Wreck), in a protected area only about half an hour by boat from Dimakya. The horseshoe makes the water so much closer, Dirk promised. With some light rain still falling, Marvin and I got on the comfortable 14-m boat "Tadeus" to head for the site.

Although it requires the possession of a buddy, diving, too, can be a thoughtful, restful, this undertaking, especially in a small group, as you can get lost in your thoughts, marveling at what you see, soothed only by the sound of your bubbles. I neared up my stormy island getaway floating in and out of the wreck's many outdoors and particles in the spirit depths, chiseled by a big, friendly barfish who seemed to be escorting me! Hey, there's even Life guys!

For information on wreck diving and shipwreck watching in Coron, check out www.divingphilippines-resort.com or e-mail info@divingphilippines-resort.com. For yachts cruises on Club Paradise Resort, Dimakya Island, Palawan, call tel. nos. (+632) 838-4955 to 58 (Manila) or check out www.clubparadise-palawan.com.



super LIFESTYLE

Mamma Mia! Meet Broadway's Liana Hunt

Super hangs out with the actress in her dressing room to talk about touring, the fans, and why playing Sophie Sheridan never gets old

By Pam Pastor
Photos by Jil Lopez

IT'S ALMOST 7 p.m. on a cold November 5 in Manhattan. Fifty-degree weather, but Liana Hunt is sitting in her dressing room in Broadway's Winter Garden Theater. Coffee in hand and still sweating her own clothes, she's been signing "Mamma Mia!" posters. It's one hour before the curtain rises.

All around the room are bits and pieces of Sophie Sheridan, the character she's been playing for two years now—first on the national tour of "Mamma Mia!" and now on Broadway. Sophie's braided top and tie-dyed skirt are on a rack, her hiking boots are on the floor.

"I have so much fun playing Sophie," she tells us.

"Mamma Mia," the musical written by British playwright Catherine Johnson based on the songs of ABBA, has been running on Broadway for 10 years now.

Liana, who's standard musical theater at New York University, was lucky to be part of the show's 10th anniversary celebration earlier this year.

Set on a tiny Greek island, "Mamma Mia" is about a daughter's quest to find her father by bringing three men from her mother's past back into their lives just in time for her wedding.

The show has been enjoyed by over 50 million people around the world, and Filipinos will soon experience this musical when the "Mamma Mia!" International Tour makes its stop at the Cultural Center of the Philippines in the Tanghalang Pambansa Theater for a limited season in January.

Liana says, "People just love it. There's an infectious joy to the show."

Super sat down with Liana to talk about her touring experience, the fans, and why playing Sophie never gets old.

Is it true that you received the news that you got the role for the "Mamma Mia!" National Tour the day after you graduated?

Yes. I was working on my final college paper. I graduated a semester early in December and I had literally finished my last final college paper and there was flying home for Christmas break and yeah, I got the call the next day.

What was it like making the shift from the tour to Broadway? Was it a huge difference?

The show itself is the same. But because the show across the world but it was definitely a shift getting to live on my apartment and just walk to work and have a routine every day. Because the Manila

...is not easy, and it's a lot more tiring work's kind of a mind shift. And it's really exciting too, because it's been my lifelong dream to be on Broadway.

What was it like celebrating the 10th year of "Mamma Mia!"? You did a lot of events, right?

Mr. Scott, it was crazy. It made the show feel new again. We all kept saying it feels like opening night. It was so cool. So many people came to see the show. I had my family here and we had an amazing party afterwards. It was so exciting.

When did you first watch "Mamma Mia!"?

Right before my final callback.

So you auditioned before watching it?

Yeah! I went in for Sophie and then I got a callback and I was like, I need to see this. And it turns out that cast off the

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DICK TRACY — BY JOE STATON AND MIKE CLARK

LOVE-MOTS — BY ELIZABETH HONGLO

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

RIKO MACHINE — BY MARK ABRERA

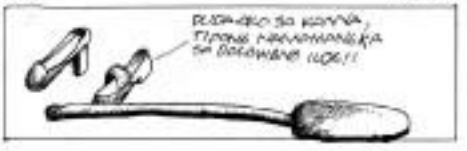
SEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

HUTTS — BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

SHERMAN'S LAGOON — BY JIM TOOMEY

DUSTIN — BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TULDOG — BY MARA CALL



HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

TOO BUSY TO BE You're a modern person in the days ahead of the Aries Full Moon on Monday, and you're also comfortable with old-fashioned inspiration. People see you as extremely well-rounded regardless of whether or not. This is why you're a successful counselor. Your creativity, personal connection and learning are encouraging. Curiously, the influences that weigh in the most powerfully have you near the Scales of Libra. Birthdate of: Gabriel Byrne, Tuesday's actor; Lucy Liu, actress; Aisha Tyler, actress and television host.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Make a special date to eat out with someone you've been wanting to get to know better. Romance is in the air. You'll notice strong attractions in new faces, too, but be more confident and steady under pressure.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Your assistance and opinions are coming your way in an appreciative if not overtly noticeable. Some investments will continue to happen for the next 10 to 12 months.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Many experiences are opening your eyes to an opportunity if you remain available. Some investments will continue to happen for the next 10 to 12 months.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Your popularity definitely will grow. Invitations start to flow in. Attractive people will be interesting. Enjoy the friends.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Many of your projects have an equal family or get-together affiliation. Be sure to include your family, but don't overdo it. Your opinions will be important.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Some of your projects are going private. Watching the numbers. The less work the merrier the good results.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) This is a tremendous day for you. Whatever you've been 10 minutes, after possible and dreams have been about will benefit you. This is a good time not to be overcompetitive.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Put partnerships and finances on the back burner for the next 12 months. Enjoy your good fortune.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) It's not for many to see your true side in the moonlight. You should get a little bit of focus, or develop a different attitude toward your current job.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Pace yourself during a transition in the next 24 months. Romantic and artistic pursuits generally are helpful from 4:00 p.m. until Friday, so try to do that then.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Your home needs some attention, and you're in a wonderful day to make improvements. Bring a light in perhaps or a new floor mat. It will become more joyful. It's a perfect day to call home.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) You're feeling a lot more focused and ready to get to the point ahead. Your social calendar should be free, leaving all the time in the world to develop.

CONCEPTIS SU BOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more puzzles go to www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

3	7	1	5	4	6	9	2	8
6	8	4	2	9	3	5	7	1
5	2	9	1	8	7	6	4	3
4	1	6	8	3	5	7	9	2
8	3	5	9	7	2	4	1	6
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2	6	8	3	5	9	1	4	7
1	4	7	7	6	8	3	5	9
9	5	3	4	2	1	2	6	4

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

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5				1			8	3

Difficulty Level ★★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1. Down with eye or strap
5. Mine
10. Kind of "Hey, this Bud!"
14. Ending with Mini-
15. Unconventional video
16. Ocean
17. Sound
18. Wing-and-a-prayer sight
19. Wing-and-a-prayer sound
20. Cook
21. Compliment
22. "___ go" (Hurried)
23. Cash-in-advance abbrev.
24. Commencement attendee
25. Hole-in-wheel
26. Ice Bowl setting
27. Ice Bowl
28. Peeking
29. Cheap cigarettes
30. Mideast money
31. Famous Hemingway
32. Hemingway's birthplace
33. Pluck
34. Ship's rear
35. Mediterranean seafood
36. Pluck
37. Bears out of sight
38. Bear
39. Ice
40. "The Nun Story" star
41. Ice
42. Compass abbrev.
43. Tear for Tantalus, Tantalus
44. Ice Bowl III broadcaster
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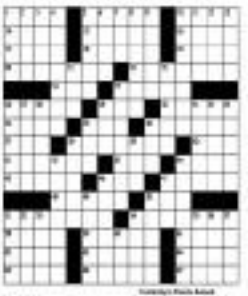


Yesterday's Puzzle Solved

Mamma Mia! Meet Broadway's Liana Hunt

Pressure?

Actually, I answered she was crazy to, but how? I was actually in a personal locker so I was like, it's probably a good thing I am the show.

What do you think it is about "Mamma Mia" that people love so much?

I think it's definitely the music first and foremost. And I also think that the story is so relatable to people. And the characters. I think everyone knows and sees the show and feels like they're watching people they know. I know when I first saw it I was like, oh my God, these are like my friends and my family. I think there's an initial connection to the show, it's so unique. There's so much joy and life in it.

In what ways do you relate to Sophie?

I relate to her energy and her spirit. Some of the things I don't relate to are her patience. She has a ton of wild energy to her. She just goes for things and doesn't think them through at all, and I wouldn't say I'm the opposite of that. I'm a lot more careful. It's fun to just play someone with so much abandon.

Did you audition for Sophie?

I did! I thought it was great. I think it's amazing to see the show in Greece with that amazing setting. It's incredible. But I will think that the first experience is always in the room. On hand, the amazing singers that every "Mamma Mia!" cast has.

What are your other dream roles? What else do you want to do on Broadway?

Oh gosh, there are a lot and they change all the time. One role I've always wanted to play since I was little was Louise in "Gypsy." That's a few years down the road. Every year something new appears and I want to jump in that role and that role!

Do you have any show secrets you wanna share with us?

One thing you don't see that's so funny is we have my understudy [Kimberly Marie] called "behind the wall." Everything happens behind the wall. It's a common phrase here. Oh behind the wall I was talking to so and so. And what that means is behind the scenery behind the wall in several points in the show, a large group of ensemble and principal actors are behind there waiting to enter or more of the stuff that happens in the show is behind the wall. So the wall, literally, "Thank You For The Music." "Mamma Mia," there's a bunch of them, a bunch of cast members are behind the wall and a lot of stuff just goes on back there.

What's your favorite song from the show?

My favorite song to sing is probably "Thank You For The Music."

What was the first show like for you?

My first show, I don't remember at all. I was so nervous and overwhelmed and excited. It was just a surreal, surreal cloud. My first show on Broadway was the same, I don't remember.

What have been some of the most memorable shows for you?

The 10th anniversary was definitely a memorable one. And one that I'll also never forget was on the tour, when we played the incredible outdoor theater in Kansas City that sat about 8,000 people. And that was every night that week. And the first time opened, there was a huge rainstorm and the audience was soaked but nobody left, they stayed and we did "Mamma Mia!" to like 8,000 people in the rain. It was incredible.

You do this every night. How do you keep it fresh?

As an actor, that's part of our training, how to keep something fresh every night. It's different as actors because it's our director and choreographer's different and so we don't only might be us. It's never going to be the same, even if I feel like it's becoming a routine, I try to give myself a goal for the night. Change some things or give my character new things to think about. I'm always active and never just sort of sitting by and letting the show happen.

What's the craziest thing a fan has done to get your attention?

Oh my gosh! We've had some crazy Mamma Mia fans. I don't know if it's the craziest but it's definitely the coolest. We have a fan here named Jordan who has seen the show several times and for the 10th anniversary, the main every night person in the cast a cookie with their character. Every night person in the cast got a cookie and then On Closing, you painted each the iconic detail and she knew what everybody's costume looked like, everyone in the whole show. That was really incredible.

PHOTOS FROM the production's run on Broadway

'Mamma Mia' in Manila!

THE INTERNATIONAL icon of the highly anticipated musical will be staged at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Main Theater starting 26 January 2012.

The story-telling magic of ABBA's timeless songs propels the enchanting tale of love, laughter, and friendship. ABBA's original music composers, Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus, helped in the development of "Mamma Mia!" using the band's unforgettable chart-topping hits like "Dancing Queen," "Take A Chance On Me," and "The Winner Takes It All" in the musical.

Sara Bryner will star as Donna Sheridan while Charlotte Wakefield will play Sophie Sheridan.

The International Tour of Mamma Mia has been enthralling audiences around the world since its debut in 2004. It has made stops in China, Lithuania, Greece, Taiwan, Hungary, New Zealand, and most recently Switzerland/Austria.

The tour is produced by Judy Craymer, Richard East, and Björn Ulvaeus for Littlestar in association with Universal Stage Entertainment and SOM.

Tickets are priced at PHP, P1,000, P1,500, P2,000, P2,500, P3,000, P3,500, P4,000, P4,500, P5,000, P5,500, and P7,000. Senior citizens enjoy a 20 percent discount.

All tickets are available at all TicketWorld outlets, selected National Bookstore branches, Solaire Resort, Sugarhouse Store (Galleria, Molito, Metro East, Festival Mall & Ecamall Pampanga), and Ayala Center Greenbelt 1, Glorietta 4, and Trinoma Mall (Ayala Booths) and TicketWorld Office at 8703 Ayala Avenue, Suite 701 I Madrigal Building, Makati City. To book, call tel. no. 891-9999, or visit TicketWorld's website www.ticketworld.com.ph.

"Mamma Mia!" is presented by Inflinity, powered by Smart and Citibank and is brought to you by LionHeart Theatrical Productions, David Atkins Enterprises, 1E Definitive Studio, Inc., and Concertus Inc.

AUTOGRAPHED posters

Revolutionary reversible jeans

TREND-SETTING clothing line Oxygen introduces a first in Philippine retail: Oxygen's Reversible Jeans.

It's basically having two denim styles in one form-fitting pair—ideal for those who are always out traveling or who want to instantly change up their looks. All one has to do is flip it inside out.

The jeans come in different washes such as gray dark blue and black, and are riders riders deep crotch or skinny.

"We always keep things fresh and exciting. Fashion is very dynamic and so are our market. We want to show people we are continually evolving with them, giving them nothing less than the trendiest and the most eye-catching fashion," said Oxygen's Brand Director Jeffery Rascon.

Go to the Oxygen fan page on facebook or catch it on Twitter @oxygen clothing.

RETRO PRINT An exciting trend for fashion lovers, Oxygen's Reversible Jeans is a right [illegible]

ETHAN ALLEN

15TH ANNIVERSARY SALE

25%-70% OFF!

On all items including new arrivals
November 18 (Friday) thru 20 (Sunday), 2011
10am to 7pm

A tall cup of Christmas

Super's guide to holiday drinks

MATTLE'S Best's Christmas drinks

CRANBERRY WHITE Chocolate Mocha from Starbucks, available hot, iced or as a Frappuccino

By Nikki Mark M. Sablan
Contributor

ONCE again, it's that time of the year for mamis-mondes, ninehung gabi, bonanzas and holiday drinks. In fact, all major coffeeshops have just released their limited edition beverages for the yuletide season. There are many new flavors to try...from nutty to fruity, from minty to chocolatey-y – but if you don't want to rush out a lot or if you're concerned with your blood sugar levels, then our review of this year's holiday drinks should be of help.

Starbucks

There is no doubt that Toffee Nut Latte and Peppermint Mocha are favorites of Starbucks fans since the two flavors are being offered this holiday season...again. It's not hard to see why. The former is a simple blend of sweet toffee and strong coffee, while the latter is a more playful mixture of wake-me-up java and refreshing mint. The good thing is that, whether you like your drink hot, iced or in Frappuccino form, both variants are sure to delight.

New this year is the Cranberry White Chocolate Mocha, which replaces Praline Mocha in 2010 and Dark Cherry Mocha in 2009. It really is just a white chocolate mocha drink, which is not bad, because it is strong and flavorful—but it becomes so much better, thanks to the cranberry syrup and the hard-to-identify ingredients that settle at the bottom of the cup. They seem to be like cranberry-flavored sugar crystals and chewy cranberry bits; whatever they are, they are tasty and fun to nibble on.

Most exciting than Praline Mocha and easier to appreciate as opposed to Dark Cherry Mocha, this new holiday drink of Starbucks is so fruity and fascinating it would be no surprise if it becomes a bigger hit than the other holiday drinks—and makes a return next year.

Seattle's Best Coffee

Two years ago, Seattle's Best Coffee (SBC) released their first holiday drink, Cookies and Mint. It proved to be a big hit, even the next year, so there's no doubt why they're doing a repeat this 2011. But for variety, the guys from SBC are now adding three more limited edition drinks: Cherry Cola Cream Pie. Each version also has a corresponding character/mascot (whom presumably reflects that of the drink) that you will see on the stores' windows, the barista' uniforms, and even on the cups later this month.

Available until Jan. 22, 2012, all four flavors can be enjoyed as hot mocha or Javaholic (ice blended). According to Eric Hamilton, SBC's marketing officer, the best sellers so far are Coffee Hazelnut among the hot drinks, and Cookies and Mint among the Javaholic flavors. However, all variants are a must-try.

The hot Cookies and Mint has the right balance of coffee and mint flavors. The mint flavor isn't overpowering to turn you off, and it's the minty aftertaste lets be last a while. The cold version has a stronger mint flavor but it's not that strong to make you think it's more of a mint drink than it's a coffee drink.

And then there is sophisticated Chocolate Cherry. The chocolate and cherry combination is not for everyone...but the chocolate and orange. It is an acquired taste. The coffee flavor is stronger than the cherry one, which is good if your taste buds are not that adventurous. The Javaholic version is easier to appreciate because the cherry flavor is stronger...it possibly can even be a hit with the kids.

Coffee Cream Pie is really a comfort drink. Whether hot or cold, it is comforting that you would want to treat yourself to during "me" time. Sprinkled with dark chocolate shavings, it has a strong coffee flavor with a hint of caramel and toffee, and it will make you feel sentimental and think of things like the fireplace, pine trees and sibling.

And then there is Coffee Stateliest. Sometime find it a little too sweet, but there is no denying that you will fall in love with this drink at first sip. It's not just a coffee drink, it's a special beverage with coffee and even peanut butter flavors. Enjoyable as a hot mocha or a Javakula, this variant is something you can have any time and any place, something that you will definitely go back for.

Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf

The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf (CBTL) believes that a drink doesn't have to be runny just to be considered perfect for the holiday season. In fact, according to CBTL Marketing Officer Alexi Bautista, the company recently wanted to veer away from offering runny for their holiday drink flavors. Take, for example, their holiday drinks last year: Apple Caramel Ice Blended and Apple Pie Tea Latte.

This year is no difference, with the Red Velvet Ice Blended drink and the Red Velvet Hot Cocoa. The two drinks have been available since last year, but it's the Cocoa version Filipinos are getting to taste these heavy sugar, which are inspired by the red velvet cupcake.

Although it's hard to describe the actual taste of the...some-sure-sign and you'll realize that apart from being delicious, both drinks do cause like the real thing. There is a subtle chocolate flavor, a creamy sweetness, and even a slightly salty taste that somehow adds to the chorus.

The Ice Blended drink (P160 for 12oz. and P185 for 16oz.) is rich and refreshing, while the Hot Cocoa version (P120 for 8oz., P135 for 12oz. and P150 for 16oz.) is velvety and a little sweeter (both are must-try's).

The good news is that you can make your own hot cocoa version at home. CBTL sells their Deluxe Red Velvet Powder in a set that comes with a mug and a whisk, for only P599. They also have special holiday tea flavors (orange cranberry sugar plum, winter dream tea, citrus chamomile, blueberry punch, and Scottish breakfast) that you can purchase, since they don't serve them in the coffee shop.

Gloria Jean's

This festive season, Gloria Jean's goes for the tried and tested by offering the Minty White Mocha, a hot coffee drink with white cocoa powder, milk, and mint. Able to come up with the right balance of coffee and chocolate, the beverage is also customizable by choosing the right amount of mint flavor.

More interesting sounding is their Strawberry Macaroon Chiller, a dessert drink that has macaroon syrup, strawberry puree, milk, and whipped cream. However, it doesn't taste as interesting as it sounds. There is no hint of the macaroon syrup, making the drink taste just like Starbucks' Strawberries 'n Cream Frappuccino. It is a very sweet drink, actually, so this one is for those who really like their drinks in a dessert.

The good thing is that the Strawberry Macaroon Chiller was favorable down to the very last sip, unlike other ice blended drinks that tend to have flavor towards the last few sips.

Both drinks are available until Jan. 6, 2012.

What's your favorite holiday drink? E-mail the author at nikmarkbablan@yahoo.com or visit his blog at nikmarkbablan.blogspot.com.

Giordano Ball Tees
The New Game in fashion

Be on the ball: Introducing the GIORDANO BALL TEE.

Giordano, a trusted Hong Kong retail brand known for quality and comfortable basics wear, has recently launched its most revolutionary line to date: THE BALL TEE.

The BALL TEE was the brainchild of Giordano's Creative Design Team. It is the first of its kind amongst the smorgasbord of loose-fitting female tops that are currently hitting the trend waves. This groundbreaking design seeks to combine all the elements of a perfect top: comfortability and ease; high quality and affordability; flexibility and style; easy-to-wear, fashion for all. Giordano is proud to have been the first to produce such an innovative style that will undoubtedly transcend from stylish trend to fashion MUST-HAVE.

These Ball-Shaped tops come in an array of colors, materials and prints. Fabrics vary from 100% cotton jersey, polyester-cotton blends to knitted textiles. They are available in two sizes: SMALL- fits small and medium sized ladies; and MEDIUM- which is good for larger-sized women. Enjoy an assortment of prints and designs suited for every girl or woman.

It is easy to assume that such an innovatively fashionable top would be heavy on the pocket. Well, you're in for a surprise. Take a peek at the price tag and see the clincher: IT'S ONLY P799! With the price as affordable as this, you get the best of everything a top has to offer. You just can't go wrong with a BALL TEE.

Name it, the BALL TEE has it. There's no end to what you can do with it. Layer it. Mix-and-match it. Tuck it in or tuck it out. Pair it with your favorite jeans, jeggings, shorts or even a skirt. Wear it in class or at the office, at a party, a date, or a movie night-out with friends. Accessorize!

Have a ball this Holiday season with Giordano Ball Tees!

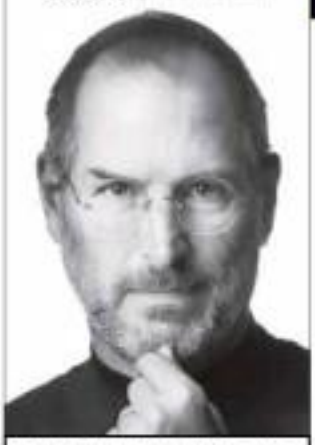
To see the complete collection of BALL TEES, visit any Giordano outlet nationwide.

world without strangers
GIORDANO

super LIFESTYLE

Odd Jobs

- Unusual things you'll discover about Steve Jobs in his hot bio



A 'Jobs' well done

Walter Isaacson's biography reveals the man behind the machine

By Tarra Tuaq

IT WAS Steve Jobs who first approached Walter Isaacson and suggested he write Jobs's biography. Isaacson kept putting it off, until Jobs' wife, Laurene Powell, told him bluntly that he former ok it were if he real- ly wanted to.

In a way this presumptive order was further evidence of Jobs' inability to rein control (a recurring theme in the bio). It was a rare thing that accomplished biographer would be prohibited anything recently, and Jobs saw to it that there would be his on- ries.

Indeed, even after his death, announcement over the web said that the Ga- rights to the book had already been bought, evidence that the man who loved to be in control was truly gone.

The book was planned re- gardless from over 40 inter- views with Jobs, as well as in- terviews with past and pre- sent colleagues, friends, fam- ily and competitors. It throws us a glimpse of Jobs as a baby who had been put up for adoption by young parents unable to care for him (the feeling of abandonment would linger and resonate in different points of his adult life), and as a youth growing up in Silicon Valley, the stage for an industry at the cusp of a discovery that would change our lives forever.

Two dimensions figure

A quick re-

1 **He was a true blue hippie.**

As a young man, Jobs would walk to work barefoot. He lived in a com- mune of free spirits, went to India to find wisdom and rushed against authority.

2 **He was a picky eater.**

Steve Jobs picked up an eating quirk that never went away. He'd have phases where he'd eat pick- ing but carrots (he even stewed slightly on stage), he was a picky vegan who also went several days which he believed led to a clearer mind.

3 **He was a cardcake.**

He acted when he was named Dora Apple, he cried when Steve Wozniak's father produced him of checkmarking his son, he cried when old advertising partner Lee Clow pitched a campaign that moved him and he ordered videos he used a love note he had written for his wife-to-be the end. Whether in the throes of a tantrum or faced with something that moved him, Steve Jobs was not afraid to show his tears.

4 **He loved walks.**

He liked to walk. As a child, he dis- covered he loved walking and without the fifteen blocks to his school everyday. When he needed to clear his mind, he would take a long walk (sometimes barefoot). He'd invite colleagues and powers- ful business partners to walk with him, and have serious conversations with them, and a lot of his interviews with Isaacson were con- ducted while they were walking.

5 **He had an exotic quirk.**

A trip to a Japanese fantasy de- veloped his fascination for the cul- tures and valued it experienced. Just his suggestion of employing it at Apple never ventured. Still, he liked the idea of recruit- ment depicting a signature style, and that the black turtleneck he was heavily associ- ated with was born. His closet had enough to "last for the rest of my life."

6 **He had a virgin fascination.**

He asked his mother if she were a virgin when she got married, and his mom trouble after she did. A group of peo- ple in Stanford Jobs many of them virgin- ities. While interviewing candidates for sub- ware manager, he asked one how old he was when he lost his virginity.

7 **He was into acid & LSD.**

During his hippie years, Steve Jobs liked on drop acid and take hallucinogens. He later claimed that he got a lot of great ideas from this ex- perience, and even recommended that ev- ery- one should try it.

8 **He was a music pirate in his teens.**

Way before digital downloads, Steven Jobs and Wozniak would shamelessly hunt down bootleg copies of Bob Dylan's performances. Don't worry, Steve Jobs would later make up for his fetish shirt with music piracy by revolutionizing the music industry with iTunes, a lifeline that record companies would latch onto during the height of digital music piracy.

9 **He loathed the stylus.**

You would think the iPhone came before the iPad, but Steve Jobs was already tinkering around with a tablet, except the iPhone's smartphone and production finished ahead of the tablet. One of the things that Jobs was adamant about in making both was abolishing the stylus, which he hated with a passion. He was quoted to have said while wearing his Regata, "Kind guys as you styluses." and "As soon as you have a stylus [with a device], you're dead."

10 **He didn't like bottle.**

As a young freshman, Steve Jobs believed that because the body was ingesting mostly fluids and organic stuff, fats would result in a body odor that was pleas- ant, therefore, only one bath a week would be needed. This would be one of his not so great ideas, because his colleagues would complain of his stank smell, despite his cleansing fruitarian diet.

Staff/Contributor Blogger Writer Joshua Cortes

A weekly directory of the country's best entertainments

Where to Stop Where to Go

Makati Shangri-La lights a tree

TO MARK the beginning of the holiday festivities, Makati Shangri-La, Manila lit up its Christmas tree and invited shoppers to join in the festivities in coincidence with the launch of the hotel's annual Christmas wedding project, A Gift of Life, in partnership with Heatbox Foundation.

The 25' Manila Douglas mirrored tree is known for the grand ceremonies, ringing Christmas classics and favorites to set the mood for a festive evening. Area managers and general managers Boris Glaziou welcomed guests.

A Gift of Life, this year's Christmas wedding project, comes with a digital twist. Guests were asked to weddings and leave a video as a gift.

The hotel, with the help of HeatBox Foundation, will plant, maintain and monitor the wedding for a year.

The couple will be entitled to a personalized electronic Christmas greeting card with the chosen photo, and a certificate for the purchased wedding that indicates the virtual name and location of the tree planted in the couple's honor. The last of these photos will be sent planting tree cuts pk. Donors may personalize their trees by naming and choosing the species, and may also view their adopted trees through their personal Facebook walls, where they can share and even watch the trees visually grow with every 'love' that the tree receives. The donor with the most number of 'loves' for their tree may receive exciting gifts from Makati Shangri-La.

Guests present during the tree lighting ceremony were Congressional Manager Legislators, Heatbox Foundation's chief operating officer Anabelle Plantilla, and renowned fashion designer Inno Sotto. The evening was capped with a mesmerizing performance by talented songstress and Star Power finalist KZ Tandingan with her rendition of O Holy Night.

To know more about how you can be a part of A Gift of Life, visit the Facebook page for the Manila leg of Makati Shangri-La, or log on to www.giftoflove.com.ph.

Putting a Pinoy twist to the holiday fare

THIS YEAR, Fairmont hosts two delicious celebrations of classic Pinoy dishes with 'Pasko na CZ' packages. This year, share the scrumptious tastes of Filipino cuisine through Pasko na CZ classic cuisine is all time favorite dishes and handcrafted by chef, which can be brought home as one-of treats for large gatherings. These packages are available as either buffet good for 6 or 12 people. Mom and dishes sure to have superior time with additional Pandesal with CZ's own Adobo flavor, like Chicken Inasal Delicious boneless chicken stuffed with garlic longganisa and marinated with 72% domestic Kasal sauce and Pineapple Demerara Glazed Hamon de Bola. Dessert with Christmas-like favorites like Tsokolate Tablea Cookies, Bakeware with choices of Choco Bread, Butterscotch Turon, Walnut Brownies, Chocolate-Honey Oatmeal and Peanut Macadamia. Pasko na CZ is available until Jan. 15, 2012 at the following CZ outlets: 25 Archbishop Jacobo, Provincial Mall Enchanted (631-3411); Jacobus Mega de Ayo, Building A, SM Megamall (710-0186); Level 3, Mall-door wing of Robinsons Place Manila (561-2400, 24, Level 1 Shangri-La Plaza Mall (656-1510); 33 Mission St., Greenhills (722-2441); Level on Crossings Center, 301 Rattipuran Avenue, Libis Heights, QC (636-9937). For your holiday take-out and bulk orders, also e-mail at marketing@cunapitalone.com. Follow them on Facebook (www.facebook.com/CZPhilippines) to know more about their latest updates.

Third night free at Crowne Plaza and Holiday Inn Galleria

TAKE ADVANTAGE of Crowne Plaza and Holiday Inn Manila Galleria's "One Two FREE" offering. Book for three consecutive nights and get the third night free valid until Jan. 31, 2012. Enjoy rates as low P5,000 net at Crowne Plaza, and P4,200 net at Holiday Inn in a deluxe room, inclusive of breakfast and complimentary Wi-Fi. Other perks include overnight valet parking, late check out until 3 p.m. in Crowne Plaza, sample authentic Chinese cuisine at Xin Tao Ji or international dishes at Seven Corners. Just beside Crowne Plaza, Holiday Inn is ready to log to you the biggest lounge in town available at this time. This holiday season, there is no need to visit your vacation short. Crowne Plaza and Holiday Inn Manila Galleria gives you enough time to unwind with your family and friends in the comfort of home. For inquiries and reservations on Sale Fee FREE promotion, please contact Crowne Plaza Manila Galleria at 633-7222 or Holiday Inn Manila Galleria at 633-7777.

Richmonde Café's exclusives for November

RICHMONDE CAFÉ will once again transform your ordinary meal to a first class three-course menu specially created by Richmonde Hotel Ortigas' executive chef Jacob Cinco and his culinary team. Guests can expect the quality, yet affordable taste at an extra mile with fresh and finished ingredients in the market. Start off with Sweet Raw Shrimp in Nira Puree with Mango and Chili Puree Dip, then choose from two perfectly seasoned, cooked and garnished main dishes: Bible Black Ribs with Bourbon Sauce served with Grilled Vegetables and Baked Potato with Sour Cream and Bacon Bits or Grilled Half-Filet Mignon Au Poivre served with Diced Potato and Carrots de Vichy. Philippine meets Italian with Bicol Express Linguine Carbonara and Panna Cotta Cream. And these Richmonde Café specialties are when from Bicol, you can enjoy a glass of either Victorino Rosa Cabernet Sauvignon / Chilli or Victorino Shiraz Chardonnay 2008 together with your meal. The Richmonde Café's Chef's Exclusives is available all days of November for P780 net. For inquiries or reservations, please call the Richmonde Café at 688-6418 or 638-1717 extension 3209. Richmonde Hotel Ortigas is located at 21 San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

Christmas spirit in Pan de Manila packaging

THIS YEAR, Pan de Manila to take into favor the intentions of the Padong Pinoy Filipinos with its 2011 Christmas paper bag theme and packaging design. "Isang Mahalay na Padong Pinoy!" With the tagline, "Mahal na Pandesal, Pinoy ang Isa Sa Mga Inspirasyonan" as per Ginoo Allen Llamas came up with a design that creates an abstract images of perfect colorful Pinoy Christmas feels.

"I created the illustrations with the fun and chaos of celebrating Pasko in mind. It should be real, realist in the movement that characterizes the Mahalay Padong Pinoy!" she explained about her rebranding work creative illustration. Albert Llamas has been professionally illustrating and designing for many years now. It is her first collaboration with Nicole Shada.

The 'Mahalay sa Mhenjong Padong Pinoy' theme will also be featured in Pan de Manila's Christmas Cake Collections that contain their specialty spreads and pulutan. Pan de Manila stores will also have Allen Llamas' colorful art on shelves and windows.

"Pan de Manila's packaging have always presented Filipino traditions. Every Christmas, we want to always be part of the Filipino families' Noche Buena which is an integral part of a Padong Pinoy," said Mari Sebastian, marketing manager of Pan de Manila.

"Since giving is also part of our tradition, Pan de Manila invites you to give the gift of a Mahalay na Padong Pinoy' which bears the hearts of your loved ones and friends. Spread the warmth this holiday by giving a bag of Pan de Manila's warm pandesal. Make the Pan de Manila Mahalay Padong Pinoy part of your Noche Buena feast."

Savor Pan de Manila's breads, which are freshly baked every hour. After the Sinulog Gala, visit your neighborhood Pan de Manila, which is open 24/7 in convenient locations all over Metro Manila, Luzon and Cebu. Their newest branches are located at Sobrecan Building on Aurora Blvd. and SM VM Pavilion, both in Makati. For inquiries, please call 655-8400 or e-mail pandemanila_ph@yahoo.com.

It's time for Thanksgiving

AS THE week leads up to turkey day, Manilenes Manila has rounded up some of the best Thanksgiving celebration ideas bound to satisfy hotel cravings.

Nothing can be more special than a Thanksgiving dinner celebration buffet-style on Nov. 24, where the spread is filled with amazing selections from the freshest purchase, delicious pastries, and mattress sauces to go with stuffed meats, in cooked feasts for dessert.

For only P1,750 net, Marriott Café delivers things the nostalgic taste of Thanksgiving with its combination of classic and homey choices. Begin with the plethora of food stations such as tiger prawn cocktail, beetroot, orange and walnut salad, plus the organic salad bar.

Thinking of something impressive for the whole family on Thanksgiving but too busy to cook? Have Sea Mercure Manila's Turkey to Fly, a gourmet roasted style turkey prepared by an in-line executive chef Mark Simmons. Lean and lean, this gigantic freshly baked turkey for only P6,700 is made tasty with cranberry sauce, corn bread stuffing, and accented by sweet spinach with bacon. Simply order 24 hours advance and it's ready to be served for a family with a big appetite.

For inquiries or reservations, call 886-3999.

Successful Oktoberfest at Solitel

THE GERMAN Club Manila, in cooperation with Solitel Philippine Plaza, celebrated the 12th Oktoberfest Manila at Solitel's Harbour Garden Tent. The tent was decorated in the Bavarian colors white and blue, while authentic Oktoberfest tables and benches provided a festive beer garden fun setting. Ladies in dirndls and gents in lederhosen added to the heart-pumping Munich Oktoberfest vibe. Over 1,000 attendees enjoyed live entertainment by The Bavarian Sound Express, as well as free flowing beer and a bevy of authentic Bavarian specialties. Specialty cervelat sausages, sauerkraut, roasts, muffins, pretzels and desserts were prepared by Solitel's executive chef, the German born Marko Rankel. The four-day festivities went on until the wee hours as beer lovers sang and danced merrily on benches to classic hits from the 80s as well as Bavarian folk tunes, such as the crowd favorite, Die Fliegerlied, and the Polonaise - the human train dance.

A haven of health rises in Makati

A PAVILION-OF between Sugarloaf Inc. and the MEDICard Lifestyle Center, the haven of health is located at the ground and second floors of the new building at the corner of Paseo de Roxas and Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue in Urdaneta's Village. Sugarloaf offers the full product and service line of its Greenhills branch. MRE food Lee Schnitzel and popular Veggie Mexican Day of Our Awesome Prizes! cut the ceremonial ribbon together with officers of MEDICard and Sugarloaf. Stockbuz to de San Antonio punch prizes! Dr. Jose Sulce blessed the premises and afterwards, guests enjoyed cocktails prepared by Sugarloaf's co-owner Gina S. Yambot. It was a happy gathering of loyal patrons, MEDICard directors and management represented by the Mendoza family Dr. Nicky, lawyer Jose and engineer Luis Mendoza, and Makati residents excited that organic and natural products will soon become more accessible. The Philippines set up a photo booth where attendees gamely posed for souvenir photos. Sugarloaf is now open at the Grand 2F of the MEDICard Lifestyle Center at 51 Paseo de Roxas corner Senator Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City. Call 892-7333 or e-mail sinsithsugarloaf@i.com. Like on Facebook Sugarloaf Foods Thai Gourmet and follow on Twitter @sugarloafph. Initially open Mondays to Saturdays, 8a.m. to 7 p.m.

Casa Marcos opens at the Fort

RELIVE THE good old days at Casa Marcos open its doors to old and new patrons at Burgos Circle, Fort Bonifacio Center, Bonifacio Global City. Take the whole family and friends to enjoy this all dishes everyone loves and remembers so fondly, in a more intimate and updated setting now owned by the third generation. This historic resto began way before its Gibbons Avenue and Tomas Morato branches, with the story beginning in the 1940s at the old Downy Boulevard when a Spanish patriarch named Señor Marcos de Guadalupe established a restaurant to his name. He crafted the menu and made the dishes himself, which were thoroughly enjoyed by restaurant patrons including his private dining room. Many times, the precious owner would even be spotted playing his guitar and singing for the customers. Whether you are out for a memorable meal with family, looking for a place to unwind with old friends, this comer restaurant's time-honored dishes and warm, welcoming atmosphere smiles you will always find your Casa Marcos experiences truly special. Casa Marcos is open from Monday to Sunday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. and 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. while The Dining Bag Pandesal Bar at the same location is open from 7 a.m. to 1 a.m. Call (02) 7764 or (02) 3799 for reservations. Casa Marcos is located at Burgos Circle, FTI Fort Bonifacio Heights, Fort Zinn, Bonifacio Global City. Digsay Metro Manila. Check out www.casamarcos.com.ph for a complete list of the menu.

Cravings' Unlimited Cake and Coffee extended

CRAVINGS HAS decided to extend the Unlimited Cake and Coffee until year-end to give diners a chance to enjoy more especially during the rain holiday season. Priced at an affordable P149, Cravings is offering a diverse selection of premium cakes from classic favorites to unique twist-on creations. Diners can enjoy eat-all-you-can cake and choose from four special cakes of the day. Complement their delightful sugary treats with the famed TCB blend for a one-of-a-kind dessert treat. As an exceptional local gourmet coffee shop gaining popularity from its establishment in 1997, The Coffee Bean by (TCB). Through the years, has upped the ante as a one-stop coffee shop which is a mainstay in Cravings outlets. To know more about these upcoming celebrations and for more information on catering services and function rooms for various occasions and celebrations, contact 426-6687, 426-6067 (Katipunan, QC), 635-6687-88 (Shangri-La Plaza Mall), 810-8252(1) (Fraser Place, Makati), 435-3736 (Tomas Morato, QC), 856-4401 (Festival Mall, Alabang) and 844-2169 (Oceana Restaurant, SM Mall of Asia Complex). Visit www.cravingsgroup.com.

Gran Prix
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Meeting Siri

And how we have a love hate relationship

By Tezin Yang

With Apple scored Siri as one of the best new features of the iPhone 4S, I wasn't that eager to try her out. Voice activated commands on a phone have always been sketchy, and is always ends up being a source of entertainment for us when we let it pronounce...and mangle—Filipino last names.

However, Siri was different from all of them. She was not just a mere voice control platform, she differentiates herself from the rest by using natural language processing, i.e., by listening to your words/sentences as a specific command to deduce what you want her to do. Over time, her intelligent engine will supposedly adapt to your patterns and voice to understand you better. I've had her for exactly thirty-five days, and you can see how I've become attached to her by referring to Siri like a person, what she says that she doesn't have a gender (although she sure sounds like a dude when you speak to her in French).

Currently, Siri is in beta mode, meaning her capabilities are limited. In the US, she can search for places near you—tell her "I want pizza" and Siri will give you a list of pizza places near your location, ranked according to highest ratings. With location services limited to a number and frame elsewhere, you'll want Siri to face substantive few features. Siri can make reminders, schedules and notes for you. She can send messages, call people, do Google searches, and make you spy-lurk on stocks, but with her voice, don't secretly.

My first action to try out Siri was to text Pam Baron. I wanted to say "Shit says hi.", so I told Siri to "text Pam Baron". Her reply? "To whom shall I send the message 'Sarah On move'?" Uh-oh. Siri wanted me to speak to her to her satisfaction or swung. I had to call her "pabrol" not "pam," and "TRO to," not "pass TOR." Names would be a problem, I would realize, and I had to edit my phone book. Our driver, Mong Cito could not be called "Manip Cito" in my phone book anymore. There is no way in hell I was going to tell my phone while in a public place to "Call Mong Cito." There's a fix for this, but it takes time and a little checking on your part. The reason why I chose you to provide phonetic fields for each contact, and Siri will read your women's name based on the phonetic phrase you provide (e.g. Lyzinn = "lehann").

Siri acts like a personal assistant, and she's even got the nerd to back. Canceling an appointment or personal list to-tell me "OK, you're way too busy anyway, Tezin." Plus, she answers crazy questions. Ask her to marry you and she'll turn you down ("We barely know each other"), tell her names and she'll name back ("Siri Siri Siri"), ask her for probating", or "I'll pretend I didn't hear that." "I'll block it! could," "Ooooh" and "look over, sorry" deliberately more sassy sentient than robotic voice command software. In fact, Siri's human like attributes makes my personal assistant performance look, so, and I find myself thanking her automatically after every task.

Still, she can be very taxing at times when she misunderstands you, and a simple command to schedule a dental cross becomes a screaming match (well, I end up screaming "Why won't you understand me?!"), and I've every shaken my phone in frustration (Throwing a phone in anger is just cutting your nose to spite your face).

I'm still a bit embarrassed to talk to my phone in public, and since Siri is still in beta mode, using her on 3G or EDGE can be problematic and slow, and I don't want to end up screaming at her in public. (No, Siri, I don't want to know the area to Naples. I want you to cancel my Tuesday appointments, dammit!).

Despite our love hate relationship, Siri can be a very powerful and handy tool since the kinks are ironed out. And she knows this, because after I asked her to call my hairstylist, she said, "OK, Tezin, what would you do without me?" What would I do without you, indeed, Siri?

Conquering Siri

Get the best out of your mobile personal assistant by knowing how to talk to Siri.

1. Keep it simple.
Even though Siri uses natural language to gauge your command, make the job easier by using simple cues as to. Say the "remind me me to reschedule my 1 o'clock meeting," and say instead "Reschedule my meeting tonight."

2. Fix your phone book.
Use unfamiliar or non-standard last names to a big hurdle for Siri recognize them. Fill out phonetic fields if you can, but relationships, or last company affiliations as you'll have after no few ways of contacting Mon Cinagongkan? Iron Anderson Consulting and we're sorry to say this, but you may have to change your significant other's name to his/her real name, and not "Bibi-babe" (Bathalagi).

3. Speak normally.
Sometimes, enunciating causes loads for to results more phrases, so try to speak to her in clear tones at normal speed.

4. Keep all cases consistent.
Siri's strength is in developing a relationship with you and learning your speech patterns over time. Help her by keeping your phrasing consistent to idiosyncrasies to a minimum.

A 'Jobs' well done

From page G3

heavily in Isaacson's biography, Steve Jobs and the personal computers. Jobs and the computing machine are intertwined and a story about Steve Jobs and his life would also be about the evolution of the device, and how he engineered the personal computing revolution.

As a fan of Jobs and his products, so, so hated it a bit disheartening to discover one idol's flaws—he was a demanding tyrant, and that was on a good day. He did not deal well with people he thought were beneath his intellect, and often showed his impatience with a harsh word or a public putdown.

Conversely, he would praise someone an idea stupid, then after mulling it, would do a turnaround, and suggest the same idea as his own.

In many of the sweet memories told by Isaacson that happened between Jobs, his adversaries and colleagues, Isaacson would often describe Jobs' behavior as unfair.

However, Jobs's manners and genius were undeniable. He was not a Midas, whose every encounter struck gold, he had several business failures, his wife each failure he adopted and learned and the legacy he left in his products is proof of that.

But when he did succeed, he would do so in a way that would leave his competitors scrambling and would again raise the bar for companies to emulate. He was the pied piper of the industry, and even his staunchest competitors would be handpicked to delinquent.

His failures and successes in business were truly inspiring, for the entrepreneur of his own. His sense of elegant simplicity showed in the design of his products and his way of life (he lived in a house without high gated fences or bodyguards).

He was also a control freak, evidenced in how he wanted his products to be established and he engraved. He had specific boundaries ourselves installed on all Apple devices so no one could easily access the guts, and he installed software and hardware for a holistic user experience.

In the end it was this extreme need for control that would also perhaps be his undoing. The initial diagnosis of his cancer revealed that it was the type responsive to treatment, but his inability or quiet control of his body to surgery was too much—his refusal to alternative treatments and his overs will in head himself before finally agreeing to surgery, which by then would be too late.

As a husband and family man, he would have shortcomings that would leave a rift between him and his eldest daughter, whom he refused to acknowledge until much later.

His relationship with wife Laurene Powell Jobs had its ups and downs. Jobs' complicated persona did not stop in the boardroom, after all. Still, there was a reason for the magic—Laurene's calm demeanor would complement Jobs's emotional moods.

Jobs said that he wanted his biography written because he wanted his children to know him. In the end of the book, Jobs leaves us with one more thing, his answer to how he wished his legacy to be remembered, his vision and reconvictions for getting us objects of desire, and how his brand, however may at times seem like novelty.

Even if you are not a fan of Steve Jobs, Isaacson's book is a worthy read, as it shares the blueprint of one of the creative minds in our lives, and the man behind the machine, it's the story of a man who said one day he is buying history books along with other great innovators.

Steve Jobs is available at Nation Book Store.

Editor Nestor U. Torre • Assistant Editor Rita P. Avila

SATURDAY Special

Comedy is a way of life for Mitch Valdes

By Andy Bais

TO MOST of her admirers, Mitch Valdes will always be a comedienne. But, she doesn't really think of herself as such: "I just have a funny outlook in life," she observes. When she was in high school, she would entertain her classmates during recess. She shares, "I wasn't aware of my sense of humor—it just came naturally.

"Because in our family, comedy is a way of life. My dad had the albums of standup comics like Bill Cosby and Sammy Davis Jr. Upon, trying dubsmart ko, I learned watching the shows of Carol Burnett and Dawn Martin."

She's proud of her theater roots, specifically in theater theaters that, given a choice, she'd pursue it as a profession. She recalls, "I was kicked out of school, and my parents organized, kaya walang family reunion ko, after high school, I was forced to get a job. Pupo Cullen ga nasa Operation pare-pareho ako sa 'Super Laff In' sa ABS-CBN in 1969-70. Sa, what people see on TV is what they'll find in real life. Forever sa akong staging camaleonic!"

When Mitch ventured into the movies, she thought it was an opportunity to tackle serious roles for a change. In her dismay, she was still assigned comedy roles. "Medyo mataba, kasi ako, medyong nobodubod or isang mediocre or style...gusto ko, iyong gaganda ng ilaga. Kaya lang, di ko, kapag ang ganda ng ka, di ka pinansin," she laughs.

Balladeer

She's glad that, in the '80s, the likes of James Gibbs and Dyan Rinaldi could do comedy and be romantic balladeers at the same time. She's also glad that more people have accepted her as a singer.

What is her comedic style? She replies, "After I did '70s for Sir' with Eugenio Lamoran, where we portrayed multiple roles, I realized that there was a side of me that was dying to let out. Mitch—without mask or camouflage! If I were to do comedy, I want it to come from me and from my personal experiences. Ang dami-dami, parodic akong magsalita ng iba!

"Sa, my style of comedy lies often from the power of observation—hindi parents or the observation kung ano ang ginagawa ko in the situation I'm in. Sa, it's very personal. I want to break down stereotypes. Kaya, ayun, TV could no longer take me because I didn't want to be boxed in.

"Whereas, comedy has no punchline—it's the situation that's funny. For some time, I couldn't take TV and vice versa—ang energy ganun. Kumi ng style...so, I did lounge acts, where there are no limits!"

Style

When she was just starting, Mitch acquiesced to the demands of TV comedy: "Sinasabihan ko 'yon! Hindi ako ng Bling Bling (Pugot, '08) kasi e dadly live down. Ginagawa ko 'yon! I was the mascot with the hairstyle accent. Nagsabi ako sa morning Andaluzia na Andoy ito, kaya ako ganito. Dalpiki Ading Fernando, Dudong Ciarlo, Comedy H2

Christmas in November

By Nestor U. Torre

DEAD TERROR in the world of entertainment and the arts make our day this year more than a month before "official" Christmas Day! Thanks to Santa and his unusually industrious elves for these delightly packaged and precocious pantalgias in our Yuletide page two:

It's Crystal-clear

It's Crystal-clear, Billy Crystal is going to host the Oscar ceremonies again next February! After the lounded manner of ceremonies hogged off, Crystal was tapped to do the honors—and that's fine by us...great, warm, humorous as ever (wow, he's one of the best hosts ever).

We can still remember Billy's brilliant Oscar-night capers in the past, like his witty musical monologues and comic pastes, which made the generally predictable and tradition-encrusted days fresh, yuckish and fun! Crystal sending his entire entourage on a whirlwind, Godfrey-like Dust with his mo-ved is another fond and indelible Oscar memory that has remained a yummy nostalgic fillip through the years—!

After those scintillating years, we wonder why the US film academy has experimented so haphazardly these past years, fielding his antic and creative hosts like last year's reluctantly duo-awarded vampires, James Franco and Anne Hathaway (Franco ended up with egg on his face, while Crystal's memorable stint as the-then' truly masterful master of ceremonies continue to dazzle and delight in deft and daft recollection. It's really time to bring the two master back!

Duet with Bennett

Another delightful gift in the music video featuring octogenarian crooner,

COMEDY H2

GAGA (WITH BENNETT, LEFT). There's more to her than kooky and lanky costume.

Time is of the essence

By Nestor U. Torre

JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE'S current motto, "In Time," is a fun film to think about, but not necessarily or not always to view. —What does that mean? Basically, the futuristic film comes off looking as an intriguing and even brilliant concept than as a fully fleshed-out production. The executives-to-actualities not imaginative or empathetic enough, it seems.

But, it really is a hale of a concept. Imagine a world not too far into the future from now where medical science has become so advanced that it has practically conquered old death, except for dying in accidents and as victims of crimes and other violent acts?

So, if presently everybody can live just about forever, what kind of world can we look forward to inhabiting? An SPED planet is what, as that would never do.

Private jet

Enter now the far-out system that enables everybody to live for only 25 years, and then to expire—either you can live more time? That's right, money has been replaced by time as the key unit of trade and you can purchase anything, from a cup of coffee to a private jet, by reducing the appropriate number of minutes, months or years you have left, to effect a particular "trade" transaction.

In that universe, the really rich can live practically forever, even as the "time poor" drop like flies around them. The wealthier people of all are the owners of "time vested" conglomerates that charge a high interest rate for borrowers to live for just a few more days or months.

It's a terribly unjust and cruel system, and Timberlake's character knows how terrible it is. First-hand, because his mother, after "living young" for 50 years, runs out of time and dies a second too soon, before he can embrace and thank her.

So, Timberlake vows to avenge himself and lick the system itself, by kidnapping the daughter of one of the richest men in the land. While doing so, he succeeds in subverting the system and shaking up the system's carefully constructed house of cards, until it's very existence is threatened. Wow.

Unfortunately, the way this amazing concept is painted out in terms of character and plot development, it too falls like a house of bad-luck cards. Timberlake keeps toting the system's army of protection (police) and "time keepers" (as opposed to the poor/paupers), on his uneven and explicit because too good to be true, and before long is there enough to win pathos with the film action becomes an implausibility—an impossibility, even.

If the system's honcho were so stupid and helpless in the face of the ass subversive's one-man army, how could they ever have got such a complicated system in place...?!

Sense of logic

However, if you check in your sense of logic and sensibility before entering the moviehouse, watching "In Time" could give you a whale of a good time. It also helps that the film does possess spirit and within the time you have left in your own existence a whole lot, because yes, I know that you can't buy more of it.

In this film, and in real life, it will time really is of the essence, and you'll pretty much get what you're willing to pay for. So, "spend" it with great care and good judgment!

Believe it's toolate.

Errol Flynn thrilled viewers with his adventurous streak

By Bebs Cervantes

FLYNN, Portrayed John Barrymore in "Too Much, Too Soon."

1981 of Hollywood's most exciting years during the film capital's Golden era was 15, and Flynn, who appeared in such epics as "Noble Deed," "The Charge of the Light Brigade," "The Prince and the Pauper" and "Captain Blood," which also starred Olivia de Havilland. While his leading lady took her job seriously, the easygoing actor made light of his popularity.

It is said that the actor scored in Hartford, throughout their many years as partners, but the majority of his conquests. Despite the fact that he never took acting seriously, he was nonetheless a fine actor, especially in the end of his career, in such films as "The Sun Also Rises" and "Too Much, Too Soon," in which he portrayed the Great Profile...John Barrymore, who had issues with alcoholism and drug addiction.

Flynn was discovered in an Australian version of "To the Manor Born" and was signed to Warner Bros. He was supposed to have killed "no one" as soon, the Sons Davis, who just signed Elizabeth I to "Elizabeth and Essex." In one scene, Flynn answers to make his breath unbearable for the deadening fencing scene. However, Davis' convincing support was scorching!

Actioners

He appeared in a number of actioners that effectively "exploited" his adventurous streak. He was best teamed with de Havilland, but he also looked good with Alexis Smith. He was known for his accuracy drinking and womanizing, as well as his occasional fistfights with directors.

The swashbuckling Flynn was very good-looking—but, around the end of his career, his looks deteriorated due to alcohol and drug use. Just the same, he still be remembered because as one of Hollywood's most admired leading men!

JONES, Author of "Lost in the City," "The Known World" and "All Aunt Hagar's Children."

Pulitzer winner meets Cinemalaya filmmakers

By Rica Arevalo

AN INTIMATE gathering for Pulitzer Prize-winner Edward P. Jones, who's known for his books, "Lost in the City," "The Known World" and "All Aunt Hagar's Children," was held early this week at CCP.

"The Edward P. Jones Roadshow" was organized by the US Embassy for fans to meet the literati artists. He was interested in the rise of independent cinema in the country, so the local filmmakers in our group came in handy.

"The Known World" won the 2004 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. When we asked Jones if he intended to write immediately upon his return to the States, he modestly replied, "If something comes to me, I write. If it doesn't, that's all right. I'll sit back, relax, and watch movies!"

This is his first visit to the Philippines. His busy schedule consists of touring schools, signing books, and having a dialogue with new and established writers and artists.

At the end of our meeting, he surprised us with a question: "I was held up in traffic yesterday and I wondered, 'If there's an emergency, how does an ambulance maneuver its way out of the jam?'—because, in the States, everyone stops and gives way!" We answered with, "Our biggest problem is traffic and, "Welcome to Manila, Mr. Jones!"

Comedy is a way . . .

From page B1

strong. Sylvia La Torre, Subic, Tanga— all the grandest of the tall and the wonderful. Sa totoo lang, they all came from the theater—that's what drove me to them. Hindi 'yung style ng TV ngayon na one rehearsal, take, then just try to be as funny as possible."

From the "masters" of comedy Mitch learned discipline and timing: "Hey pagka-Charlie Chaplin ang comedy nila. You move from a certain cadence, pathos or tragedy, then you bring it around—I was struck at an idea."

Mitch usually performs his humor acts without a script, she just lets down the topics: "I never know if it's going to work until opening night, because there are no rehearsals. After the first night, pino-pino na 'yan, tatanong ko sa director...bonus ako, dagdag dyan, or we reorganize the topics. It can give you a new, true breakdown—but, it's been working so far."

Her musical shoes are a different matters. She shares, "I have the best musicians, or may back-up singers pa! Pati kung nanood ng play, ako 'yan lang ang nagsasawsaw, singer and dancer! At ang script—bigyan ni Ambay Lo!"

Glares

For a while, she had guests on her show—usually the "clothes ng buwan." She sighs, "Mwa, ewan ko, nahihiya ako sa mga show. What songs can we do together without me looking like a pedophile?"

Most of Mitch's admirers are women, because "Tsap what they are thinking. They've come to appreciate honesty and sincerity. They may not agree with me all the time, but it comes from a place where it feels real—I just put it to a humorous light, para hindi sila mayamot makinig."

Mitch takes humor very seriously. She muses, "My attitude toward my comedic gift is to treat it with integrity, so people keep coming back for more! I keep the dignity of the comedian, not the clown. Homor should always be treated with dignity!"

Pixar introduces new 'anti-princess' in 'Brave'

From page B1

LOS ANGELES—The newest princess from Walt Disney is more interested in shooting arrows and hunting bears than attending balls and finding Prince Charming. Merida, the spunky, curly-haired Scottish heroine from the coming Pixar animation fantasy adventure, "Brave," is breaking new ground as the archery-loving protagonist of the Oscar-winning studio's first fairy-tale.

"She's your anti-princess," said "Brave" codirector, Mark Andrews. "She doesn't want more clothes, except in a couple of scenes, when her strict mom, Queen Elinor, makes her do it for special functions. She's an active and action-oriented person. She wants to get out in the outdoors of the Highlands, escaping from castle life and exploring the woods."

Merida, 16, is set in medieval Scotland and features the voices of "Boardwalk Empire's" Kelly Macdonald as Princess Merida, Emma Thompson as Queen Elinor, Billy Connolly as her no-nonsense father, King Fergus, as well as Craig Ferguson, Kevin McKidd and Robbie Coltrane as the kingdom's assistants.

HEROIC. Pixar's latest heroine is an active and action-oriented character.

Focus

Despite being the first Pixar film to focus on a female heroine, Andrews said that the animated feature will be less about girl power and more about the mother/daughter relationship between mother Elinor and daughter Merida, likening the defiant red-haired princess to a determined modern teenager who's forced to attend the same high school where her mother serves as the principal.

The role of Merida marks the first animated film part for Macdonald, a Scottish actress who has appeared in "Gosford Park" and "Finding Neverland." She acknowledged being struck by the significance of playing Disney royalty during a visit to Disneyland early this year as she watched Disney princesses gathering during the afternoon parade.

Accent

"I just thought, 'My goodness! There's everybody going in for a lifetime during here during the magic,'" recalled Wiechkowski. "The people that they cast to be the characters and wear the costumes at Disneyland have to do the accent, so somebody at Disneyland is going to be doing me. Some American girl will have to do my accent. Is Disney my mom?"

Other imagery teased in the new trailer includes Merida entertaining supernal blue-haired wisps, as well as the gnarly bear that took her mother's leg. Andrews said that despite the 3D film's darker tone and visual style compared with past Pixar movies like "Toy Story" and "Cars," "Brave" won't be "missing any of the comedy or entertainment you usually associate with Pixar." AP

Christmas . . .

From page B1

Tony Bennett, doing a duet version of a pop-classic with—Lady Gaga! Bennett just does his signature and iconic style number, but—that's what drove me to them. Hindi 'yung style ng TV ngayon na one rehearsal, take, then just try to be as funny as possible."

From the "masters" of comedy Mitch learned discipline and timing: "Hey pagka-Charlie Chaplin ang comedy nila. You move from a certain cadence, pathos or tragedy, then you bring it around—I was struck at an idea."

Mitch usually performs her humor acts without a script, she just lets down the topics: "I never know if it's going to work until opening night, because there are no rehearsals. After the first night, pino-pino na 'yan, tatanong ko sa director...bonus ako, dagdag dyan, or we reorganize the topics. It can give you a new, true breakdown—but, it's been working so far."

Her musical shoes are a different matters. She shares, "I have but we were slowly backing up the wrong sandwich!

In addition to her "every" duet with Bennett, Lady Gaga also delighted viewers recounting when she was beaten to an unrecognized pictorial on TV that had her wearing all sorts of unusual "creations" that affirmed her unique penchant for the out "fashions."

The most attention-calling creation she wore was a gown made entirely out of different sizes of—What Billy Bulls! Or any other celebrity, the gown would have looked fabulous, but on Lady Gaga, it worked!

Sandler is proudly low-brow in latest comedy

IN JUDD Apatow's "Funny People," Adam Sandler played a middle-age comedian whose career was built on a series of popular but decidedly low-brow movies.

If you did "Jack and Jill" into that lineup, no one would even think. The film, in which Sandler plays both sides of male-female identical twins, feels like a joke stretched into a feature film.

That isn't necessarily contrary to the aims of "Jack and Jill," a ghoulishly silly movie much more in line with Sandler's earlier comedies than his later, more

SANDLER. Comes with ill Pacino.

self-conscious movies.

Sandler plays Jack Sadelstein, a TV commercial producer, married to Erin (Katie Holmes), with two children (Robert Chase, Giselle Teague). Thanksgiving brings an unwelcome visit from his twin sister, Jill (Sandler).

Sandler plays Jill as he might have in a "Saturday Night Live" sketch, and Jill is less a real character than a rambling parade line. She has a thick Bronx accent, a masculine physique, and is completely out of touch.

Jack is aggressively mean to his sister, whose visit, he says in his chagrin, keeps being extended. Jill proves useful, though, because she's surprisingly kitchen-savvy, and she's also a hit with Jack's children.

While it's been long fashionable to be overall movie, Chow's performance has won strong early reviews. Emily Yahr calls it a "career-crowning role," and others have seen Jewel if the gender-bending nature of the character may enable the actress to finally

CLOSE. Poises herself off as a mom.

break her Oscar jinx of five nominations with no wins.

Apatow's

Glenn Close pours 'crazy passion' into 'Albert Nobbs'

TORONTO...In her 28-year film career, Glenn Close has been nominated for five Oscars, won three Emmys, and portrayed a generation of married American men to think twice about cheating with her sassy turn as an obsessed lover in 1987's "Fatal Attraction."

But, through it all, she has honed the dream of bringing to the big screen "Albert Nobbs," a curious tale about a woman driven by circumstance to pass herself off as a man in 19th-century Dublin.

Close first played the titular character onstage in 2002, and 10 years ago launched an all-out effort to get the film made, shepherding the project through script rewrites, casting changes, and endless rounds of interviews.

Outside the box

"The nature of Glenn finish of films is, you've got to have this crazy passion behind them, because they're outside the box," Close told Reuters, flashing a broad smile that would be out of place for the repressed and buttoned-down Nobbs.

With a pallid face, straight back and Charlie Chaplin-style walk, Close's portrayal of Nobbs leans little nonchalance to the femme fatales and nutbars of her past roles that have de-

Censorship is in the mind

By Bebs Cervantes

I RECALL the night in 1949, when I saw "Forever Amber," starring the lovely Linda Darnell and Cornel Wilde. The film was banned by the Catholic Church, because the film featured a scene where the pair was supposed to do what "normal naturally."

When the lights went up after the screening, everybody's eyes were on me—because I was the only youth in the theater!

I felt mature, because I had already seen films starring Bette Davis and Joan Crawford. I used to wonder why adults thought only they should be allowed to watch such movies! I knew that Darnell and Wilde were trying to make a baby—wasn't that done every night? What was so scandalous about that?

Since I was accustomed to seeing adult movies, I never thought much about censorship. I always believed that an "adult" mind would respect artists whose expression of life may differ from the average citizen's.

Lino Brocka, Ishmael Bernal, Jeffrey Jeturian and Adolf de Leon sure adult-themed movies and never found sex dirty. So, in Tagalog (spoken) movies, when sex was used as the foundation for it, because I found genuine violence more abhorrent than sex!

Mothers

The reasons they were mandated by women's books, which I saw regularly in perfume and linen, when mothers secured their babies. A female writer once observed that Filipinas didn't wear bras and panties till much later in their menstruation. Besides, what's so scandalous about women's breasts?

I learned a vital lesson after watching "Forever Amber"—that no one could put a dirty thought in my mind, because I saw things as they were. I always wondered why nudity in cinema was considered "wrong," while nudes in paintings and sculptures were nothing out of the ordinary.

I likewise learned the difference between sex in cinema and literature. The most maturely you treat children, the more mature will be their reaction to adult themes and issues in cinema, literature and the arts.

Thus, when the "mainlining" adults in the mendicant in 1949 looked at me as though I didn't belong there, the most adult they made me feel!

WILDE AND DARNELL. Controversial starrer.

Chef Anton takes a bite of the Big Apple

CHEF ANTON Garpit has joined the ABC Kitchen team as a chef de partie. ABC Kitchen is among the most popular restaurants in New York.

Before chef Anton's well-toned dishes a his happing con-coction, which his colleagues in New York find superb. He was one-one of 20 chefs tapped by Richard Coer to prepare dishes for his food-tasting event for the Clinton community.

Anton studied at the French

STREET SMART

Culinary Institute in 2008, and has had internships at some of the finest restaurants. Gran Georges, Buddakan in New York.

Sojourn

Prior to his US sojourn, chef Anton established "Food by Special Order," which specialized in Southeast Asian and continental cuisine. He was formerly an instructor at the pioneering La Cordon Bleu Manille, where he earned a certificate in basic French Cuisine in 2002.

...

Join our Balcones Photo Safari from February to May next year. Early bird participants will get a discount. Visit manilamuseum.blogspot.com, or call 890-3288.

Patience pays off for Sari Lluch Dalena

DALENA. Dreams fulfilled.

By Rica Arevalo

WE SAT with 2011 Cinema One Originals Best Director, Sari Lluch Dalena, during a screening of her Palanca winner, "Ka Oryang," at Shangri-la mall. Sari's other entries include "Memories of Forgotten" and "Napoleta."

She shares, "I've been dying to make 'Ka Oryang,' so pitching the script was a dream come true. Getting recognized is just a bonus—what matters more is the opportunity to make a film again. I hope I don't have to wait for another six years to make my next project."

"Ka Oryang" follows a woman's journey to activism during the First Quarter Storm. Initially, she's just an observer, then she becomes a victim of military brutality. Dalena explains, "I wanted to show what really happened during martial law."

Collaborator

The ensemble includes Ana Quintellua, Rafih Aguilos, Angeli Reyniz and Che Ramos. Husband Keith Sicat executes and edited the film. Dalena shares, "Keith is a good collaborator—he checks and balances me. He reminds me to exceed being predictable and to maintain mystery a renowned message."

What was her inspiration in making the film? She replies, "When I was growing up, my dad (Emilio Dalena) was drawing political cartoons, and my mom's (Lilit Lluch) circle of friends was made up of political dreamers—a fascinating brood! I learned a lot from them."

Her greatest fulfillment was her parents' reaction. "They found the film beautiful. If my dad doesn't like something, directs it/says so/edits—no prayer. But, when he saw it, he embraced me and said, 'Mapore-sa iyo.' That was wonderful!"

This year's entries will be screened at UP Film Center on Nov. 29-Dec. 2.

Boyz II Men . . .

From page H4

12 new original tracks and eight newly recorded versions of classics like "Motownphilly," "I'll Make Love to You" and "On Bended Knee."

"When we first performed the songs, they were just given to us—so, we were into the studio and got them done," explained Nathan Morris. "But, now, we've been singing them for so long and experienced some of the things we've been singing about, so we're able to express them a lot better." The group marvels at how far they—and the record industry itself—have changed in 20 years!

"When we came out, there weren't even an Internet!" exclaimed Wanya. "Everything is digital now, and it's easier to get your talent out fast." But, Wanya is careful not to discount celebrities like Justin Bieber, whose career was launched on YouTube.

Bieber, who was born the same year that Boyz II Men's "I'll Make Love to You" was a hit, counts the group among his influences, and he and Boyz II Men recorded a song together for the new star's Christmas album.

Reserv

Charice is a work in progress in 'Infinity'

By Rito P. Asilo

LIFE GOES on for Charice—and not even the tragedy that struck her family on Halloween night last month can hold her back. So, she will grieve for her father—but, she now chooses to look at the brighter things in life and move on, as noted by her Philippine manager, Grace Mendoza, who told us early this week that the death of the teenage singer's father "has surely made her family closer—and stronger."

Meanwhile, this 19-year-old singing sensation—who's coming home next month to cuddle the anticipated concert, "Charice live with Charice," at Resorts World on Dec. 3—stays positive as she continues to relax. Her supermentor is that come her way.

Possibilities

As Charice shares in the liner notes of "Infinity," her second international album, "[i]t's about infinite possibilities. We are who we imagine ourselves to be—and sometimes more. The world has given me a better life than I ever imagined. I hope my music will inspire people to reach for their own infinite possibilities!"

The singer/actress is standing in a bright spot in her drama-heavy life and career: It's a showcase of her wide range and surely exhibit japes, with catchy, hummable (albeit generic-sound-ing) melodies and warm harmonies in bond. With its booming riffs) and Charice's strong vocals, we're keeping our fingers crossed that her latest album will generate as much hit-making traction and fire as the first one.

Except for JoJo ("Too Little Too Late," "Leave"), who sings background vocals on the Rhonda-recording "Sweetheart Survivor," Charice's sophomore effort doesn't have guest rappers for the singer to "spar" with, as she did with Iyaz to the Billboard-charting No. 1 dance hit, "Pyramid."

She's not wanting in high-profile composer-collaborators, though. Emeli Sandé delivers the close-crapping "Before It To-gether"; Nick Jonas is credited with the buzzing "One Day"; Kara DioGuardi and Aaron Pierre co-collaborate on the lush-heavy "Lesson for Life," and Cathy Dennis ("Too Many Walls") and Natasha Bedingfield ("These Words") respectively contribute the anthemic "Get The Best Thing" and "Lighthouse," whose feel-good lyrics boast with inspiration and optimism.

Failed bid

It's amazing to see how far Charice has gone since her failed bid on "Little Big Star," but the petite singer continues to be an exciting work in progress. What does the need to work on? Examination and clarity in her delivery as a segment in the otherwise lovely "Lighthouse," to which she's occasionally incomprehensible when her shrieked lines are drowned out by the song's "musical" instrumentation.

"Infinity" bombards its tracks with dizzy, snappy and percussion-heavy grooves that are evenly matched by Charice's solid vocals, which are as strong in the high registers as they are in mid-range and below—an advantage she enjoys over other "powerful" singers. (Note: that mention believe are only impressive when they're soaring their high notes, but how full and power when they're gliding through the lower keys).

Other hard-to-ignore cuts here, "London's" pounding rhythm will remind you of the soaring, gliding whimsy of Katy Perry's "Firework," and "New World" is a radio-friendly hybrid of J-pop, Jamboree and Glee —they're guaranteed to zap you with your pop-music fix!

CHARICE. Sleek, snappy and percussion-heavy grooves.

BOYZ II MEN. Flash to pool of R&B hits: Pioneers like harmonies with New Jack Swing.

Boyz II Men still making music after 20 years

NEW YORK—In 1991, Boyz II Men scored on the pop music scene with their brand of R&B that peppered Motown-like harmonies with New Jack Swing, a genre that fused R&B, hip-hop and pop music.

The following year, their smoothing ballad, "End of the Road," won the Philadelphia natives an international stardom, and this year, the band releases "Twenty," a double-disc album of new and revisited music at commemorating the 20th anniversary of their debut album, "Cooleyhighharmony."

"Twenty" reunites Wanya Morris, Nathan Morris and Shawn Stockman with "End of the Road" producer Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds. Their latest single, "One Sip Is Love," was produced by Edmonds.

The 20-song collection is comprised of

MORE ON

Sarah Geronimo at the studio, recording (Mom's new track, "Ang Saya ng Langhap-Sarap")

A one of the country's most bankable stars, and perhaps Sarah Geronimo can ask for practically anything she wants for Christmas. However, being the simple and down-to-earth girl she is, nothing makes her happier than spending the sweetest holiday of the year with the people she treasures most—her family.

"I come from a simple family and we can value our time together more than the gifts we can possibly receive from each other. What's important for us is that we spend quality family time. We usually just spend Christmas at home or we go to Pampanga for family reunions," Sarah shares.

Many things may have changed since Sarah entered the entertainment industry but thanks to her family, she has remained grounded and did those pakuan-in simple things. She insists that one thing that brings the family together is their love for food. "When we're together we love to eat a lot. That's how we catch up with each other's lives." When they eat out, there's no other place that makes Sarah and her family feel more at home than Jollibee, where many of their special bonding moments take place.

Sarah shared that she was so excited when she was tapped by the country's number one fast food chain to sing its new jingle "Ang Saya ng Langhap-Sarap" that was recently launched via its latest Christmas-themed TVC. As the singer the catchy and upbeat ditty, Sarah can't help but relate to the song about family bonding moments at Jollibee. "Pagdating sa food, simula no'ng bata pa ako, Sarap talaga ang happiness, 'yung sarap talaga ang kapwheneve. Dito ak everyday pala, kasi at home dalas ako. Malaking ang bahagi sa ang saya ng pamilya sarap. Ang saya ng langhap-sarap!" happy memories spent at Jollibee instantly flooded Sarah.

"Even at our ate were kids, going to Jollibee is one of the things my siblings and I look forward to. My mother knows how much my sisters and I love eating at Jollibee, so whenever we do a recitation at school, we would go to the nearest Jollibee. As my reward, she would give me a treat of my favorites like the Jolly Hotdog and Jolly Crispy Fries," the pop princess fondly recalls.

For Sarah, it doesn't matter where their family goes or what they do as long as they are together. And whether it's Christmas or just any regular day, there's always a Jollibee store around the corner where their — and other families' — happy-smiling memories are re-created day after day.

PATTINSON, Ruinaware Uma Thurman (left) in "Bel Ami."

SATURDAY Special

Pattinson, Stewart and Lautner look beyond 'Twilight'

By Rito P. Asilo

WITH THE imminent end of the "Twilight" saga—which began in wrap-up mode the release of "Breaking Dawn, Part One" yesterday (its finale unveils on Nov. 16 next year)—the swooning and fluttering fans of Robert Pattinson, Kristen Stewart and Taylor Lautner are wondering what's on the docket for the trio's thespic plates.

Pattinson's disturbed, pretty-boy looks are perfect for period dramas and supernatural romances...but, he pays the contemporary price in David Cronenberg's postmodern drama, "Cosmopolis," where he plays Eric Packer, a newly married young millionaire who loses everything in the course of a single day.

He role in Declan Donnellan and Nick Ormerod's "Bel Ami" is even edgier. The period piece chronicles the life of Georges Duroy (Pattinson) and his rise to power in Paris...which he accomplishes by manipulating the city's most influential women, including Uma Thurman, Christina Ricci and Kristin Scott Thomas.

Road trips

Kristen Stewart also has something exciting up her sleeve: She takes on Jack Kerouac's autobiographical "On The Road," based on the spontaneous road trips of Beat Generation author and his friends across mid-20th century America. The movie's exciting cast also includes Kirsten Dunst, Viggo Mortensen, Tom Sturridge, Garrett Hedlund and Amy Adams.

We're even more excited about the actress' two-in-one footage in "Snow White and the Huntsman," Rupert Sanders' take a dark twist to the well-loved fairy tale, with Stewart portraying the beleaguered princess.

Upon the Evil Queen's (Charlize Theron) orders, the Huntsman (Chris Hemsworth of "Thor") takes Snow White into the woods, where he's supposed to kill her. Instead, he becomes the princess' protector and mentor in her quest to vanquish her scheming stepmom!

After failing to make a dent in "Abduction," Taylor Lautner is fielding another actioner, "Tracktown," a futuristic thriller based on Catherine Fisher's sci-fi novel about Finn Easmiter and Claudia Dhavis Jones Gardner, adolescents confined by the enemies of a high-tech prison to an overgrown world controlled by artificial intelligence.

There, Jacob Black's alter ego just might go biblical in "Goliath," Scott Derrickson's intriguing screen adaptation on the life of the future king of Israel, David (Lautner), who's on the run from Goliath. It plays yeah through. Lautner will have a lot of double-flexing to do, because the actor tapped to play his arch enemy is...Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson!

STEWART AND LAUTNER, Portray Snow White and David, respectively.

Bankable new stars for a resurgent movie industry

By Nestor U. Torre

ONLY A COUPLE of years ago, the few mainstream local movies that were still being made despite the industry's decade-long downpours flopping all over the place. Today, however, more films are being made, and some of them have turned out to be "movies" hits. —What's going on?

One of the reasons for the resurgence is the rise of some new and newly bankable stars who've come to the "wrong" place at exactly the right time, giving moviegoers what they've been looking for (even if they themselves didn't have a clue). Call them lucky, plucky few—the bankable, new stars for a resurgent Filipino film industry.

The first "moment" hit of 2011, "No Other Woman," fielded three of them—Anne Curtis, Cristine Reyes and Derek Ramsay. What do they have in common? They're relatively young, sexy-looking and ready, able and savvy to rise and leave.

Graphic sex

Actually, when you compare these three stars to the ready but-to-race screen sexbykers of the '70s and '80s, when graphic sex really sizzled on the local movie screens (and licensed it to subsist), today's "sexy" stars are relatively prim and quite proper.

But, in their "breakthrough" movie, they shared and bared enough to make viewers sit up and take notice that something "different" and trendy was taking place. Even if it was mostly suggestive, screen sexiness was staging a comeback—subtle, closely clothed heats.

Handy, they seemed to team—but we digress, in that their movie's classification would not be severely restricted and it could appeal to many moviegoers, hence potentially becoming a big hit—which is precisely what it's up and done.

The big test of the enduring level of the three stars' success will come when they separately topbill their first follow-up movies. Genuinely big stars are able to headline a new film on their own and by their lonesome, and make it a big hit. —That's why producers regard them as "bankable," because they're uniquely reliable in their ability to draw crowds to any of their starrers.

REYES. Screen-sexiness stages a comeback.

Projects

So, we can bet that Anne, Derek and Cristine's individual handlers and mentors are being very careful and clever in lining up their separate follow-up projects, to make doubly sure that "No Other Person"'s huge success isn't a one-time phenomenon.

The other huge hit of the season, "Praybeyt Benjamin," is a solo starrer, with Vice Ganda reaping practically all

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SM CITY CLARK | SM CITY SAN FERNANDO | SM CITY GALAMBA
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SM CITY STA. ROSA | SM CITY MARILAO
SM CITY TARLAC | SM BALINTAWAK
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SM CITY BAGUIO | SM MOLINO

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SOTTO: Searchin' Mr Right continues.

By Andy Bolt

STEVE LLOYA, office employee, asks: "What do restaurant critic Mike Lucchesi, Nobi de Castro, Ted Failon and Marites Vitug have in common?

FANS' DAY If there's a will, there's a way

They seem to have come from the same school of 'mind projection.' They always unveil like there's a catastrophe looming on the horizon! There's bad news, all right—but, do they have to make it so obvious? Boarin' Seventies, host Maritess and Rudy Tima delivers the news the way it should be—objective, and without gimmicks."

Other news:

Virgie Aceda, housemate: "Jim Clemente and Vivo Films are on a roll, opening mega hauls for their latest films, 'No Other Woman' and 'Prophet Benjamin.' Now, if only they could produce a movie that is success. I'd not just at the box office, but also in terms of quality. That's a tall order—but, if there's a will, there's a way!"

Flair for comedy

Arlan Arenas, assistant 'Among me' comedians, I admit: Vic Sotto because of his natural flair for comedy. He's a going performer, letting his sidekicks, Jose Manalo and Wally Bayola, shine on their own. I am also feel his concern for his fans. My only question is: Pilyo is is taking him heaven to Bicolna night?

Sydney Thornton, student: "TFC's think-tank has to work double-time on their the channel's program listings can catch up with those of ABS-CBN and GMA 7. Their schedules, like 'Sa Ngalan ng Ina' and 'Glamorosa,' are unclear hence, but they're seen only by a relative few."

E-mail: fcmandy@yahoo.com

Fun and frolic on four wheels

By Nestor U. Torre

MOST CARS shown on TV are predictable, studio-based productions that run for years and years on their force of habit. The new game and quiz show, "Cash Cab," flies in the face of all that sinful predictability by taking its game way out of the traditional studio concept.

As its title indicates, it's a TV show on wheels, a moveable and exciting feast of fun and frolic that is a runaway...or "driveaway"—winner when it comes to the all-important "surprise" factor.

We have caught several minutes of the show, which originates from Singapore, and thoroughly enjoyed the ride, thanks to quizmaster-driver Ofi Ferrignon's charming, breezy and sunny hosting-style.

Passengers

He more than makes up for the cramped confines of the souped-up, jarred up taxi that is the show's tiny studio on wheels. Talk about a tight, little production, that is it! But, Ofi's breezy hosting makes the tight confines of the "set" just of the fun and bonhomie, as driver and passengers squeeze into every inch of the available space in the show.

Ofi may be a fine host, but the show's success greatly depends on the quality personalities and knowledgeability of its passenger-contestants. Too many wrong answers would never do, because they would bring down the program's energy and excitement level.

That bit, however, the "unscripted" conversations have been up to the task at hand. Most of the questions Ofi asks are about the entertainment and social scenes, with a decided preference for American and European topics and personalities.

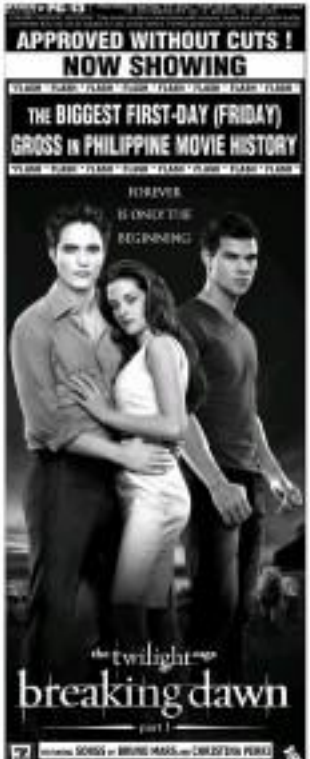
Questions

A number of the passengers are also foreign tourists or expats, but it's instructive to see that the locals' held their own as far as rubbing up with current answers to questions about western entertainment and lifestyles.

Possibly, we're saddened by this, because it shows how much Asians have been brainwashed to not just be knowledgeable about, but also to prefer the foreign or (euphemistically put) "International" and "global" way of life and pop culture.

Despite this sobering insight, however, "Cash Cab" is still a fun (if cautionary) viewing trip. Catch it sometime on The Discovery Channel, why don't you?

PETTERSEN. Charmer, beauty and sunny hosting-style.



"THE ADVENTURES OF TINTIN." With its release, Spielberg's reputation as a peerless storyteller remains in the cold.

SNEAK PREVIEW

Daniel Craig revisits bad-boy past in Spielberg's thrilling animation

By Rico P. Salta

DANIEL CRAIG hasn't always been the dashing superspy, James Bond. In fact, long before he donned dressing room tuxedos and asking for shaken, but not stirred martinis, the British actor thrived on playing bad boy roles ("The Mother," "Sheer Cult") that established him as a character actor with daring and depth.

So, it didn't come as a surprise when we heard that Craig was going to lend his voice to the bad guy role in Steven Spielberg's (original) adventure-comedy-mystery extravaganza, "The Adventures of Tintin" (showing on Nov. 30), in which the legendary director teams up with the similarly iconic Peter Jackson, who's onboard as producer.

Sudden treasure

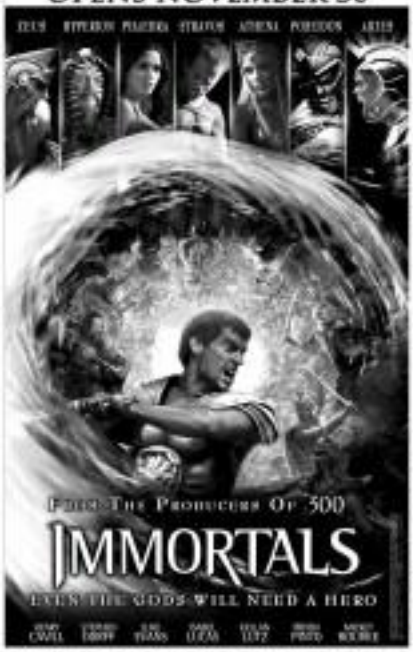
In Spielberg's gloriously realized screen version of the 1940s comic book series, Craig is cast as Ivan Ivanovitch Sakharine, the powerful descendant of a 17th century pirate who's trying to get his hands on sudden treasure.

But, close to its other cohorts on only be found in parchment scrolls hidden in three identical toy models of a sailing ship called the Unicorn—one of them is in Sakharine's possession, and another one just been purchased by investigative journalists Tintin (Jamie Bell) Bur, who to could the third one be?

With the help of his loyal pooch, Snowy, Tintin finds the answer when he embarks on an adventure that leads him to Sakharine's last ancestral mansion, to the constantly inebriated Captain Haddock (Andy Serkis, in another outstanding motion-capture performance)—who holds the key to finding the missing treasure! But, pending all sheer swashbuckling in a surefire problem that requires more than just Indiana Jones-style daring-do and action-movie gumption to solve.

This, non-fan fare are no longer as easy to partake as they used to be. Not to mention, with the likes of Peter Jackson, who's been missing since that began in 1995's "Fire Story" ended with the seconds-ugly unrequited sequel of "Cure"—and, even Jackson fans, self scratched in 2009's less-than-literal But "Lovely Bones."

But, we're happy to say that, with the release of "The Adventures of Tintin," Spielberg's reputation as a peerless storyteller remains rock-solid. As his best-paced adventure flick aptly demonstrates, the director can turn



FORUM

What movie has had the most significant impact on your life?

By Noelle Torre

SCANTILY, HOWEVER the movie than just provide a few hours of entertainment—movies actually have a profound impact on a viewer's life and his way of thinking. We asked some viewers to recall the films that had the most significance for them. Their answers:

"I love 'Frida,' which dramatizes Frida Kahlo's life. She had hopes of becoming a doctor, but an accident at 18 made it difficult for her to pursue it. She turned to painting—at first, it was only to give herself something to do during the months she bore bedridden.

"Kahlo's passion, determination and strength are an inspiration, not only to artists, but to women, as well. I was at a low point in my life when I watched this movie, and it motivated me to stop feeling sorry for myself—and move on!"—Maria Gonzales, art student

"FRIDA." Kahlo's passions, determination and strength are an inspiration to artists and to women.

Adventure

"Movies that we watch as kids stick to us—but, the one that had the most impact on me was the animated feature, 'The Rescuers Down Under.' Where a bunch of old appliances go on an adventure to find their owners, who had left them behind. It taught me the value of taking care of my things. I had a habit of losing my toys when I was a kid, and I always wanted new stuff. But, this movie taught me to appreciate those old things."—Jessamyne Rose Hollandino, preschool coordinator

"Island Poetry Society' is set in a secluded boarding school that just names him to embrace. There, Robin Williams' character starts teaching them to be true to themselves. It gave me the push I needed when my parents were pressuring me to take up engineering in college. I knew it wasn't what I wanted to do, but I was already thinking of giving it.

"There, we watched the movie in English class, and it felt like the universe was trying to tell me something. I didn't give in, and I don't regret it."—Joshua Rogan, photographer

History

"Eddie Romero's Gancho Kano Hour, Pinoy Klyo Sajecon" I've seen many times. It made me realize how ignorant I was about our past. It brought Philippine history to life and inspired me to read up on it, and not just memorize names and dates."—Louie B Fernandez, law student

"Fisher Salem's 'Departures' is about a man who put a pen in a moment. It helped me deal with the grief I felt when I lost my mother. It showed me that there is beauty in death, despite the overwhelming sadness"—Kristy Nelson, engineer

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Ayala Malls Vertis North
Ayala Malls Circuit
Ayala Malls Solenad
Ayala Malls Capitol Commons
Ayala Malls Manila Bay
Ayala Malls Cinemas

Lolita Rodriguez is versatility personified

By Lynn S Parejo

LOLITA MARQUEZ Clark, daughter of the American, William Charles Clark, and a Filipina mother, Carmen Marquez, first appeared in a Sampaguita film, "Ang Aring Pagibig," starring Tita Duran and Pancho Magalona when she was only 16 years old. (She started as a background "extra" in 1953.)

The film was directed by Eddie Romero, who was using the pseudonym, Enrique Moreno a second movie, "Sa Isang Sulyap Mo. Tita, became a box office hit. It was a musical, in which a new comedian who could dance very well, Dolphy, was introduced to the celluloid of Pancho.

Title role

But, Lolita's appearance in the movie didn't create any stir. It was in another film made that same year, "Lolita," starring Gloria Romero, where Boy Perez took notice of her. Forthwith, he asked the assistant director, Jhun Salumeda, to contact Lolita for an interview and was surprised to find out that she had been appearing regularly as an "extra" in the films the studio was churning.

Thus, in 1954, Doc Perez changed Lolita's name—from extra to a cameo role in "Tres Mujeres," then to "extraordinary" in "Pilya," a film by Romero for Sampaguita Pictures directed by Tony Cayado. At the same time, her screen name was changed to Lolita Rodriguez.

When the only female action star in Sampaguita, Rita Gayol, was incapacitated by an accident, Doc Perez saw the need to develop another female sensation.

When the idea was broached to Lolita, she was all for it, calling at Beaux Arts University, as she would learn such "unfeminine" tasks as trouble-shooting a stalled motor vehicle.

By the time she reported back to Sampaguita for her first starring role in Mars Ravelo's Tagalog Klassic serial, "Jack and Jill," she was ready to play the gay Dolphy's roadweight sister, salve down the bandit's injuries (it could make a living, she would find an ally in Rogelio dela Rosa when it came to love matters. It was directed by Mar S. Torres.

Treat

"Jack and Jill" wasn't only a big hit as the box office in the '50s, it has also become an all-time movie treat for those who remember Sampaguita's baby cowboys.

Another early movie is Armando Garces' "Dalia," where Lolita's dramatic performance won her the Fiesta Pel Best Actress in 1958.

What for 12 year contract with Sampaguita Pictures ended, Lolita tried another genre, the theater. In 1968, she appeared in Cadalia in "Lawaran," and 10 years later she reprised the role of Paula.

In her 1956 article, "I Saw Them Grow Up," in Sampaguita Silver Screen magazine, Ben Mia described Rodriguez as "a little too clubby and dark," when she first leave her as an extra.

"But, even as an extra, Lolita is struck me as a typical Filipina beauty. And, talk to her, and you know she was a fine actress. With her sensitive face, she didn't have to say a word to tell you what she was thinking.

Very close

"In the beginning, she wasn't popular with the studio folk and the press. She was aloof and hid to a shell." Eventually, however, Lolita and Boss became close, and Doc Perez decided to feature the only film that paired Lolita against Carmen Rosales—1961's "Dyesebel."

After Sampaguita, she continued her work in cinema whenever a good role knocked on the door. 1968 Miss Ta Film Festival, she was the Best Actress awardee for "Kandarna Rayat," and also at the 1971 Catholic Mass Media Awards for "Handesom."

But, the film that seems to be her most satisfying achievement was Lino Brocka's 1976 drama, "Tinimbang Ka Pero Sa Kulang."

SANTIAGO AND LAMBETI: "Some entertainers."

Their time to shine

By Nestor U. Torre

OUR LAST report on "The X Factor USA" ended with the upbeat news that Asia-10-An survivor Illona Santiago's group, Intimacy, had squeaked through as one of Cheryl's 12 finalists. Last Sec 3, however, the first "elimination" telecast here saw that happy riding for Illona and her group.

One by one, the "survivors" of the eliminations phase were announced, and it was adorning to note that the most popular finalists were soloists, not groups. This enough, by the time that 10 of the survivors had been announced, the two remaining finalists (with the lowest scores in terms of viewers' "votes") were both groups, and Intimacy was one of them.

—And when the host was finished on, it was Illona's group that hit the chart.

So, that's it.....see last Fancy but is no longer in the competition. Aside from tasting the ashes of defeat, however, Illona can make sweet points to her group from her "X" precinct. In her group of 10, she was singled out more often by the jurors, and mentor Paula Abdul clearly thought as well of her that she gave Illona the best solo parts in sing, thus showcasing her fine and strong singing voice in a special way.

Charisma

The other mentor-jurors also singled Illona out for special mention, as we expect to hear more of and from her in the future. Her's possess her exceptional ability and charisma as an Asian. Asians can talent, and sweet and shows producers should offer her "star making" project that could end up making her a winner in her own right.

In this regard, we advise a savvy Philippine-based production company to

CONT. 6

MOVIE TIME

GLORIETTA 4

1) BREAKING DAWN PART 1
11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 7:30, 10:00 AM
2) BREAKING DAWN PART 1
11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 7:30, 10:00 AM
3) BREAKING DAWN PART 1
2:30, 6:00, 9:30, 11:00 PM
4) DRIVE
1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:15, 11:30 PM
5) BREAKING DAWN PART 1
11:30, 2:15, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15 AM
6) BREAKING DAWN PART 1
1:45, 7:00, 7:45, 12:45 AM
7) BREAKING DAWN PART 1
12:00, 3:15, 5:30, 8:30, 11:15 AM

GREENBELT 1

1) PRAYBEYT BENJAMIN
1:30, 3:30, 5:45, 7:45, 9:45 AM
2) BREAKING DAWN PART 1
11:45, 2:30 AM

GREENBELT 3

1) BREAKING DAWN PART 1
10:15, 12:30 AM
2) BREAKING DAWN PART 1 (3D)
9:00, 11:30, 1:30, 6:00, 12:30 AM
3) RESERVED
4) BREAKING DAWN PART 1 (3D)
10:30, 1:00, 3:30, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30 AM
5) BREAKING DAWN PART 1
11:45, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00 AM

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1) BREAKING DAWN PART 1
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00 AM
2) BREAKING DAWN PART 1 (3D)
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30 AM
3) BREAKING DAWN PART 1 (2D)
1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00 AM
4) PRAYBEYT BENJAMIN
11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30 AM
5) BREAKING DAWN PART 1
2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30 AM

AYALA CENTER CEBU

1) BREAKING DAWN PART 1
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:30 AM
2) BREAKING DAWN PART 1
1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00 AM
3) BREAKING DAWN PART 1 (3D)
12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:15 AM
4) PRAYBEYT BENJAMIN
2:00, 4:30, 7:15, 9:30 AM

MARQUEE

1) BREAKING DAWN PART 1
11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:15 AM
2) BREAKING DAWN PART 1 (3D)
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30 AM
3) BREAKING DAWN PART 1
11:45, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00 AM
4) PRAYBEYT BENJAMIN
12:30, 2:45, 5:30, 7:00, 9:15 AM

MARKET! MARKET!

1) BREAKING DAWN PART 1
11:30, 1:45, 4:30, 6:30, 9:00 AM
2) TOWER HEIST
11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 6:30, 9:00 AM
3) PRAYBEYT BENJAMIN
11:45, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:00 AM
4) BREAKING DAWN PART 1
1:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:00, 9:00 AM
5) BREAKING DAWN PART 1
10:00, 1:15, 4:45, 6:30, 9:00 AM
6) BREAKING DAWN PART 1
10:45, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00 AM
7) RESERVED

TRINOMA

1) BREAKING DAWN PART 1
11:30, 1:30, 4:45, 7:30 AM
2) DRIVE
1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 7:30, 10:00 AM
3) BREAKING DAWN PART 1
11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30 AM
4) BREAKING DAWN PART 1
1:00, 3:45, 6:45, 12:00 AM
5) BREAKING DAWN PART 1
11:00, 2:30, 4:30, 11:30 AM
6) PRAYBEYT BENJAMIN
10:45, 1:00, 3:00, 7:45, 12:00 AM
7) BREAKING DAWN PART 1
12:00, 2:45, 5:15 AM

ABREEZA

1) BREAKING DAWN PART 1 (2D)
11:30, 2:15, 4:45, 7:00, 9:30 AM
2) BREAKING DAWN PART 1
1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00 AM
3) BREAKING DAWN PART 1
11:30, 12:00, 4:00, 7:15, 9:30 AM
4) PRAYBEYT BENJAMIN
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AYALA CENTER CEBU
Mr. & Ms. Pinoy Metrosexual
November 19, 6:30 p.m.
Activity Center

MARQUEE
Live Bands at the Park
November 19, 26, 4th Tier Activity Circle

TRINOMA
Anime Addiction Fair
November 19 Mezzanine Activity Circle

ABREEZA
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Robin Williams dishes hilariously on his recent honeymoon

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Rebecca V. Sagwebela

LOS ANGELES—One interview with Robin Williams was a laugh-a-thon as usual, with the irrepressible actor singing a virtual musical show, effortlessly segueing up to smart-bomb remarks on various issues...from French, Australian and Indian to...Filipinos.

The actor toted the Emmy among others for his role in the HBO biopic, Lewis Carroll, the Victorian father of his ex-wife, Marsha Garces. "He was a great man," Robin fondly said of Louis, who died during his birthday party. He was in his 90s! Naturally, Robin couldn't help but quip, "But, at least he had a great party!"

"Big time," Robin answered when we asked if his kids with Marsha—Zelda, 22, and Cody 19—keep in touch with the Filipino side of their family. "Very much so, because of Marsha. My ex-father-in-law, Louis, was amazing. They keep up with the Filipino part of my family."

Incurable romantic

In "Happy Feet Two," Robin again voices two penguin characters—Ramon, the incurable romantic, and Lovelace, the guru. Robin Williams provides the voice of Carmen, a statuesque, beautiful penguin being courted by Ramon.

"When you record for animation, most of the time you are alone," Robin said. But, director George Miller encouraged group recording purposely so the talents could truly interact with each other around the mic. "So, when Hella was in the same room, it was like, 'What a gift! It was great!"

"It went really well," Robin added about his sessions with the sultry Hella, pronouncing the last word with trembling excitement. "You see her on TV and all of a sudden, you see her in person and she wants like, 'OK, baby, please.' It gets pretty wild. She's really funny and beautiful at the same time. She's willing to go wherever you want her."

The sequel to the animated hit, "Happy Feet," also features the voices of Elijah Wood, Hank Azaria, Pink, Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, Common, Hugo Weaving and Anthony Lathgho.

Asked what's animal comes closest to representing his family, Robin replied, "Aardvarks, since I have been with dolphins. But, people would say monkey. I was actually hit on by Cora, the gorilla. She tried to take me in the back of a truck. The trainer went, 'If she takes you back there, I can't help you.' But, I think it's different more than anything, because of the dolphins' playful nature, sensuality and intelligence. I would love that. So, either that—or a great or memorable spa."

Robin became even more animated when talked turned to Simon Schneider, a graphic designer whom he married last October (he and Marsha divorced in 2008). The newlyweds honeymooned in Rome, Venice and Florence.

"For me, it was so beautiful, because we got to go to all the museums," Robin said. "My wife is an artist."

Then, he virtually acted out all the following anecdotes that he shared with us: "It was lovely!" he said of their honeymoon in the City of Light. "We had a suite at the top of this hotel, like the Toulouse Lautrec suite. It was this tiny room where you stepped a brilliant Dublin stood up and proceeded to be the Hunchback of Notre Dame, pushes and all) to say, 'Bonjour, it is or?' I will pull out your bed for you. Your first time at the Notre Dame? I'll take you back in a moment...I will put back the bed once I go out. I must ring the bell for service. Ding!"

"I just conceptualized my honeymoon!" he said while we laughed.

Robin continued, "We went to a restaurant and all of a sudden—look over there. There's a table of four people and a car sitting on a chair! On demonstrated a car around expertly. What's going on? The waiter's over on the cabinets. I turn. 'Did you enter the car? Do they serve car stuffed with mussel?'"

Comic books

"I love to collect comic books," said the Oscar and Golden Globe-winning actor. "You go into a comic book store in France. You buy comic books, and you go, this one's very large, 'Oh, wow! These are for adults!'"

Asked if he sampled actor Gerard Depardieu's wines while in Paris, Robin answered, "I don't drink. I'm clean but makes them, but as a former alcoholic, I can't. It's too late. That's a bit like Gandhi running a delicatessen."

"It has been two years since the surgery—and it's working," he added about his heart problem. Robin had had heart surgery in 2009) and how he is, overall. "I have a cow valve, which is wonderful. I feel good! The marriage is amazing. The kids are doing great."

He has another son, Zachary, 20, with his first wife, Valerie Velardi.

Who does he think is the next Robin Williams? "Sacha Baron Cohen comes, there's a guy named Peter Dinzeli, who's lovely," he said. "He's amazingly funny. He just makes me laugh so hard. In political comedy, there's this kid named Jamie Elliott, who's amazing.

WILLIAMS. A virtual one-man show.

Brutally honest

"There's also a guy named Louis C.K. He has a show on television called 'Louis,' which is the closest thing to watching a Cassavetes comedy. It's really funny and sad at the same time. He did one episode where there was a kid named Jong Shat Jaggit. Doing talks about suicide in a brutally honest way, but it's also funny at the same time. There's Chris Rock. There's a lot of them out there."

It's almost surprising to realize that this hyper-energetic comedian in front of us hosted 60 last July. Does he feel older? "I feel exactly...when I remember," he cracked. "So you feel wiser when you have those moments like when you go, 'What's your name again?' There is a moment when you're like, 'Yeah, I'm 60. I'm 20 feel it!'

"So, here sometimes, I do have that moment where you have that lapse—like today, I couldn't think of the guy who announced Wile E. Coyote. I kept thinking, Chuck Close! (It's Chuck Jones.) That's the only thing that frightens me. I don't want to feel like that's slipping. There are great people in my life. I appreciate those who are still there even more so. You raise the ones who have gone on. You just keep going."

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Hard killers, treatable doctors, and other boob-tube booboos

By Nestor U. Torre

HOST: Will did you stop the traffic on the bridge leading to your town?

Guest: Because it's weak...the recent disaster is threatening the base structure of the bridge!

(Excuse me, are you talking about a bridge...or a new hairstyle?)

* * *

Host: What will happen now to Aunty's plan to go abroad for medical help?

Guest: Well, they will now have to elevate the patient to the Court of Supreme!

(...With Diana Pena as "Supreme" Justice—?!)

* * *

Host: What is your timetable for the toxicity of the Pevilla murder case?

Guest: Models to you, "pag umusok na ang mga baril killers.

(They're that rough, huh?!)

Chances

Host: What are the chances of more land slides in your province?

Guest: It's keeps raining and rain, there's more, because it's very slick!

(Ah, your "logic" is...slippery!)

* * *

Host: Your mission is to help what group in particular?

Guest: Our organization is to help our native people, who belong to indigenous species!

(Oh, whatever does that mean—?)

* * *

Reporter: Do you think our candidates has a good chance in the beauty pageant? Do you think Miss Philippines will win?

Interviewee: For me, we are very proud of our very potential candidates!

(Thanks, but, I think she will!)

* * *

Host: Does Gloria Arroyo really have to go abroad to get well?

Guest: No need! There are many excellent doctors right here in the Philippines!

("Treatable doctors?"—Rabbitofyuta...)

Supporters

Host: —is that right? If so, why are her supporters insisting that she should go abroad?

Guest: Well, as usual, they are misleading the facts!

(—Bullshit na naman!)

* * *

Host: Who won in the Miss World contest?

Colbert: Miss Venezuela—first runner-up long a Miss Philippines.

(Admirable! Venezuela! —dig deliberate!)

* * *

Host: What is your plan for winning the challenge?

Guest: We will try to be the fastest and also the best—it will serve as a double purpose!

(—Oh, so to note names!)

* * *

Host: What will you do if there's a fire in your neighborhood?

Guest: I will right away get a bible and throw a cube!

(No comment!)

Big discounts at MangMang's Christmas sale

BEAUTIFUL HANDICRAFTS and decor items from all over the country are discounted up to 70 percent at the Handicraft Fair Trade Store's big Christmas sale, ongoing until Dec. 31.

Aside from the beauty and quality of the products, it showcases the fair trade store is supported by its enlightened customers.

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4 p.m., "Carmen," Nov. 17 at noon, "Hansel," Nov. 22 at 11 a.m., "Evening Pieces," Nov. 23 at 2:6 p.m., "Dream On Ambassador," Nov. 26 at 8 a.m., "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," Nov. 28 at 8 a.m., "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets."

'Hedda Gabler'

"Hedda Gabler," Henrik Ibsen's provocative drama on crippling discontent and thwarted aspirations, holds a splendid cast led by Lara Morgan and Lou Veloso, directed by Ron Enriquez, at the College of Saint Benilde Theater on V. Cruz st., Manila, on Nov. 24 at 7 p.m. and on Nov. 18, 25, 26 and 27 at 3 p.m.

'American Influences on Philippine Cinema'

Nick Deocampo's "American Influences on Philippine Cinema" traces the start of motion pictures in the country during the American occupation.

Topics include selling the Philippines through film, US world dominance via Hollywood, Hollywood's influences on Philippine film production and aesthetics, and the creation of the star system. The book is enriched with rare photos and illustrations.

Piano recital

Eleven-year-old pianist, Michael Romano, interprets Chopin, Debussy and Beethoven at 5 p.m. on Nov. 26 at UP's Bayanihan. Call 344-4112.

New sitcom

Wednesday, Nov. 23, on ETC, Ron Gonzalez and Betchay Bonifacio star as girls from very different backgrounds who wind up working together in a Brooklyn diner.

Their time to shine

From page 6

host everyone else in the dust and effortlessly performances and recording deals here, while her singular success on "X" is still fresh in music fans' recollection.

Other 'runnerunners'

Speaking of "runnerunners" who eventually made it, Chiara can't help but squirm from the "gradual success" enjoyed by "American Idol" rejects like Jennifer Hudson and Clay Aiken, who ended up bigger stars than some of their US winners.

On the local scene, "runnerunner winners" include singer-R. Lo and actress Sarah Lahbati. K-La didn't top the singing till she joined last year, but her combination of looks, talent and charisma is belatedly reaping its much-deserved reward by way of her concerts and her ingenue lead showcase in the musical, "In the Heights."

On her part, Sarah had to patiently wait for quite a long while after the talent-OA ultimately bore the long-awaited heart-worth it, because she's now playing the title role in the new telenovela "Kokak."

If Elissa decides to launch her singing career here, it's likely that she'll go places, as well, even if "reinventedly." So, let's spread the welcome mat and we'd rather be late—and help her come into her own!!